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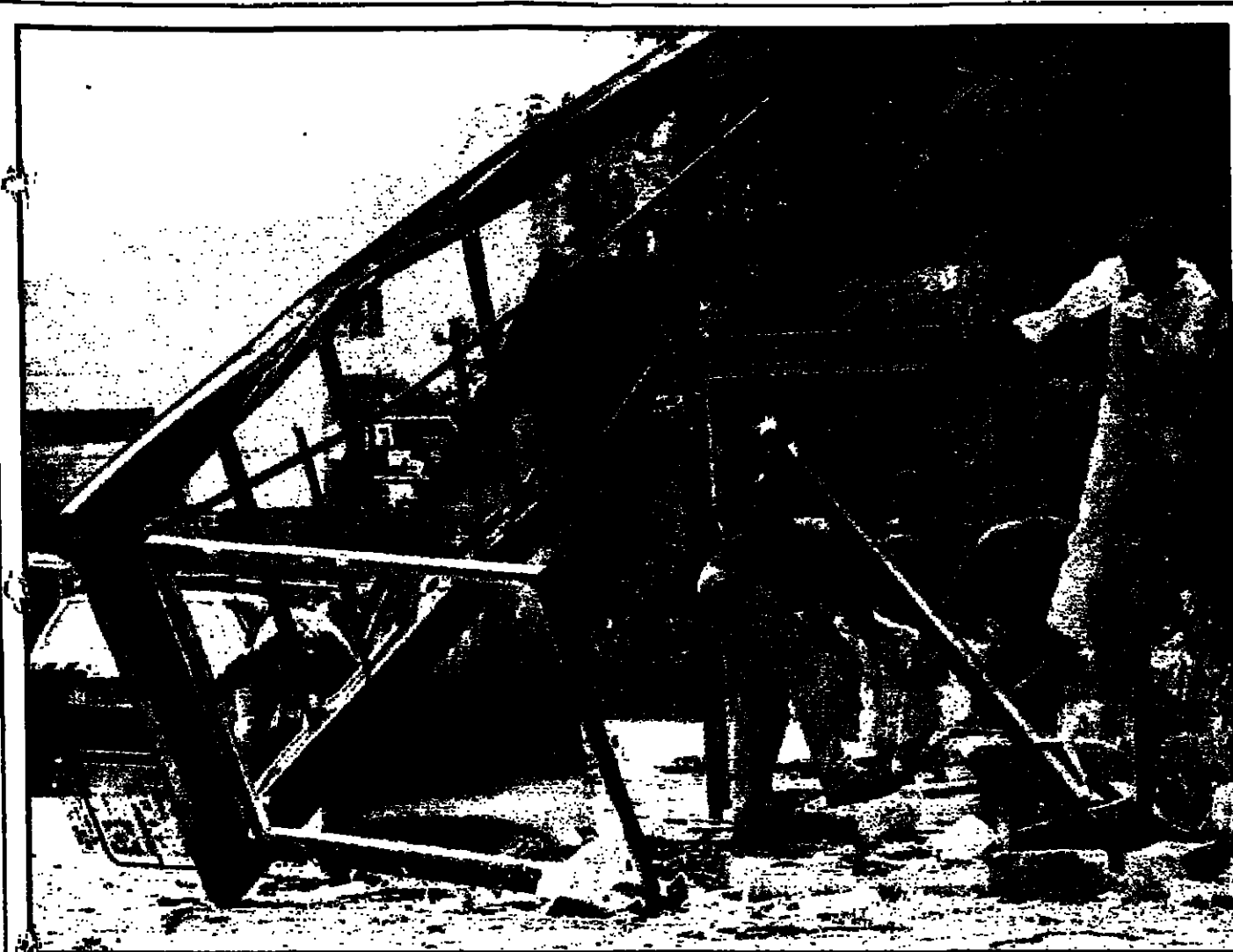
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Mt. Scopus bombing

Forensic detectives sift through a bomb-wrecked bus stop on the Mt. Scopus campus of the Hebrew University yesterday, looking for clues. A soldier was injured in the blast. Story, Page 4.

(Brian Hessler)

Moussa in interview with Arafat has to declare state

By DANNA HARMAN

UNITED NATIONS — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has no alternative but to declare a state, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told *The Jerusalem Post* here yesterday.

President Bill Clinton, meanwhile, yesterday separately invited Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Arafat to the White House next week.

Netanyahu is to visit the president on Monday, officials from the Prime Minister's Office confirmed last night at midnight. There were no reports of plans for a three-way meeting between the leaders.

In his interview with the *Post*, Moussa said, "I believe the Palestinians are right to talk about their state and they are always right when they do so. They have the right to establish a state, they have the right to declare a state and if the Israeli government does not like that, they have to show us an alternative."

He said his brief meeting with Netanyahu on Wednesday had been fine, and that progress on some of the points of contention between the Palestinians and Israelis is being made, but he

stressed that the problems with "slow peace" are far deeper. "It is a very slow process. The point is not the issues, the point is the process or 13 percent of things. These are all negotiations. The major question is the direction of the process? And has Israel turned

PM warns PA against declaring state, *Post*

on the peace process altogether? This is a serious question." Moussa said that the Palestinians are not, as Israel has insinuated over and over, being led by the Egyptians.

"The Palestinians do not need suggestions or advice from anyone on what to do or not to do. It has become a habit for the present [Israeli] government to try to constantly shift the blame to others... if the Palestinians find it difficult for them to accept a bad offer, the Israelis don't have to blame that on a third party... they have to give a good offer, and they will find the Palestinians agreeable... and then

don't be thanking the Israelis," he said. Meanwhile, Marwan Ghilani, Syrian ambassador to the UN, said Arafat has no intention of softening his speech to the General Assembly, despite Israeli and American pressure. "We never intended to declare a state in New York, at the UN," he said. "We will declare our state on the 4th of May on our land. But what we will do at the UN is to declare our intentions, prepare the grounds for that declaration, and request that the world community accept Palestine as a full member of the UN. We have not changed one word of our speech, nor do we intend to."

A US official, however, said the pressure being brought to bear upon the Palestinians by the Americans and the Israelis has apparently led Arafat to somewhat rethink his approach to the matter of statehood in his speech. He said the expectation now is that Arafat will discuss the matter of Palestinian independence, but will refrain from an outright declaration of intention.

See MOUSSA, Page 18

World Economic Forum:

No Mideast business summit this year

By NINA GILBERT

The World Economic Forum will not be sponsoring a Middle East and North Africa business conference this year due to conditions in the region, a top forum official said yesterday.

"We don't think that the region would feel comfortable this year having a summit as in the past. What was a product four years ago isn't suited for this year," Gregory Blatt, director of the Geneva-based organization, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Blatt said that, in lieu of a conference, the annual January gathering in Davos, Switzerland, will highlight the Middle East. He said the forum would invite Middle East businesspeople on the CEO level to take part, along with the other 1,000 members of the forum, which brings together

governmental and business leaders for high-level talks in an informal atmosphere.

Blatt said the meeting would not be a MENA summit, but the featuring of the MENA region at the annual session. He said the forum is standing by its commitment to having the business community play a role in helping cement the peace process.

This is break from the format of the previous regional conferences, held first in Casablanca, Morocco, in 1994 and subsequently in Amman, Cairo, and last year in Doha, Qatar.

The Doha conference, unlike the previous ones, disbanded without deciding on a venue for the next parley, due to increased Arab-Israeli tensions.

Several countries were broached as possible sponsors for this year's conference, including

Tunisia, Oman, Turkey, and Cyprus. However, no country volunteered to host the event.

A government official in Jerusalem said the failure to hold the conference this year is a "punishment to the region as a whole." There were a few Arab countries willing to host the event, the official said, but they were pressured by strong Arab governments that did not want the conference to take place this year.

Another government source said the conference would not get off the ground this year, apparently due to the fact that Egypt is not willing to participate.

Blatt also noted that Egypt is an important player and its involvement ultimately contributes to the success of the conference.

See SUMMIT, Page 18

Women of the Wall reject compromise prayer site

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Women of the Wall plan to fight yesterday's recommendation by the Neeman Committee that their prayers at the Western Wall be limited to the adjacent Robinson's Arch.

Robinson's Arch, extending from a continuation of the Wall several dozen meters south of the common praying area, is all that remains of the huge stairway that led to the main entrance to the Temple Mount from the marketplace. The arch is named after the

American explorer who first discovered it in the early 19th century.

"Robinson's Arch is a tourist site, not a prayer area, separated from the rest of the Jewish people, whereas our women consid-

er themselves an integral part of the Jewish people," lawyer Frances Raday said after receiving the committee's recommendation.

See WALL, Page 15

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Tel Aviv	5:14 p.m.	6:10 p.m.
Haifa	5:06 p.m.	6:09 p.m.
Beersheba	5:12 p.m.	6:09 p.m.
Eilat	5:12 p.m.	6:10 p.m.



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NEWS

in brief

Meir Ariel says he won't perform anymore

Singer Meir Ariel announced yesterday he would cease making public performances, following protests made against him by homosexuals and lesbians. Ariel said he had failed to create a dialogue with the gay community after newspaper interviews he recently gave in which he condemned homosexuality. On Wednesday night, he was forced to flee a nightclub in Tel Aviv due to a rowdy gay protest outside. Ariel also said he would have to stop paying taxes as he would no longer have any income performances.

Tim

Yitzhaki goes off by accident

Chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki's pistol accidentally as he pulled out its magazine while on a visit to a detention center in Jerusalem. The bullet hit a woman officer who quickly apologized and the incident drew the attention of the military.

Tim

Israel captives

The IDF and Palestinian Authority Chief Yasser Arafat agreed to a Hebron-area town in the West Bank. The IDF seized weapons from the town. Palestinian sources identified the suspects as members of the Abu Sarah, the commander of the Israeli police station in Hebron. PA security sources refused to comment.

Members of Palestinian Authority guard during a raid in Hebron. The IDF seized weapons from the town. Palestinian sources identified the suspects as members of the Abu Sarah, the commander of the Israeli police station in Hebron. PA security sources refused to comment.

Palestinian UNRWA strike

UNRWA staffers serving 3.5 million refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza called off a planned wage strike after the UNRWA commissioner-general announced the 22,000 Palestinian staff would cancel their strike after he held a six-hour meeting with them on Wednesday. "We agreed that they call off the strike," Hansen said, saying the two sides had agreed to form a working group to discuss staff demands which include improved pay and an end to cutbacks in services to the refugees. UNRWA employees held a one-day strike last week and warned they would hold an open-ended strike from September 28 if the agency did not meet those demands.

Age strike

Refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza called off a planned wage strike after the UNRWA commissioner-general announced the 22,000 Palestinian staff would cancel their strike after he held a six-hour meeting with them on Wednesday.

Descendant of an ancient Jewish family dies

A 105-year-old woman, whose family claims to have lived in the country continuously since ancient times, died yesterday at Nahariya Government Hospital. Mazal Zeynati of Peki' claimed her family has lived in the village since the destruction of the Second Temple. The Zeynatis have been among the only Jews in the predominantly Druse village. Zeynati, who helped take care of Peki' in his synagogue, was born in 1893 and is survived by a daughter, Margalit. A son died 11 years ago and her husband nine years ago.

Tim

Correction: The movie review in today's Time Out was written by Adina Hoffman.

PM warns against state declaration

By MARILYN HENRY and DANNA HARMAN

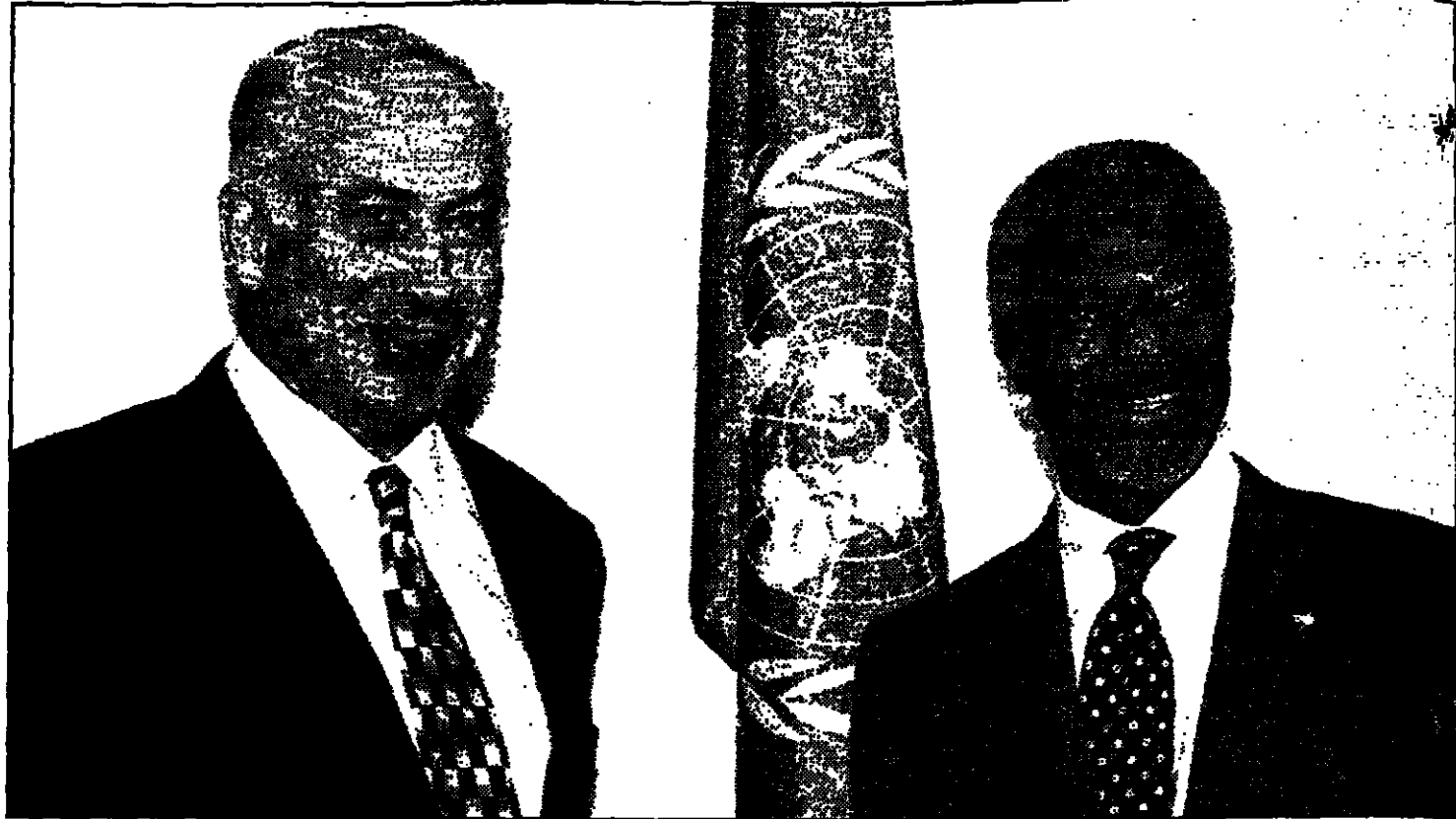
UNITED NATIONS — In his address to the UN General Assembly yesterday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned the Palestinians against unilaterally declaring a state, saying such a move would trigger "unilateral responses" from Israel. Netanyahu called for completing the current talks, then beginning negotiations for the final settlement. But he also rejected the idea of deadlines, saying that the failure to meet a deadline does not end the agreement.

"The Oslo Accords are not about meeting deadlines," Netanyahu said. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, who addresses the UN on Monday, is expected to repeat his plan to proclaim an independent state next May.

Netanyahu "strongly urged" the Palestinians not to proclaim a state, warning that "an arbitrary, unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state, in disregard of this purpose, would constitute a fundamental violation of the Oslo Accords."

A declaration "would cause the complete collapse of the process," he said, adding, "Such actions would inevitably prompt unilateral responses on our part... We must continue to negotiate — earnestly, continuously, and tirelessly — until a final peace agreement is reached. No other way will do."

He did not make a specific offer, but he acknowledged Palestinian



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meets with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the UN in New York yesterday. (AP)

suffering to the UN, which has been highly sympathetic to the Palestinians.

"We want peace for us and for the Palestinian people, whose prolonged suffering has been one of the cruel consequences of the wars waged against us," he said. He called on the Palestinians to

"choose peace, fight for peace," and warned against terror, violence, threats, and incitement. For a peace to endure, he said, it must be based on security and reciprocity.

And to the UN, which routinely and automatically refers to the occupation of the Palestinians, Netanyahu said that "it can no

longer be claimed that the Palestinians are occupied by Israel. We do not govern their lives, but we cannot accept a situation in which they threaten our lives."

The US would oppose a "unilateral declaration" of statehood by the Palestinians, as would a number of European Union states, offi-

cials said this week at the UN, anticipating a Palestinian announcement of intent next week.

"It would be a unilateral step that we would oppose," US State Department spokesman James Rubin said in New York Wednesday.

Palestinians reaffirm plan to declare statehood at the UN

By MOHAMMED NAJIB, STEVE RODAN and news agencies

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and President Bill Clinton made plans yesterday to meet next week at the White House as the PA cemented its plan for its chief to declare statehood when he addresses the UN General Assembly on Monday.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said that Arafat had spoken to Clinton by telephone last night and accepted an invitation to meet him in Washington "in the coming few days" after Arafat's scheduled speech.

Erekat said Arafat would also meet US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright before seeing Clinton for their first face-to-face talks since January.

Clinton will also meet with Netanyahu on Monday, before his meeting with Arafat.

"A few minutes ago President

Clinton talked to President Arafat. It was a prolonged telephone call in which all current developments were discussed as well as the exerted American efforts," Erekat told reporters in Gaza last night.

Arafat also met last night with his cabinet to discuss strategy during his appearance at the United Nations, where he is expected to declare plans to announce an independent Palestinian state.

At the session, the PA endorsed the plan to declare statehood, called on Israel to avoid collective punishment. It also urged the UN to intervene and prevent an "explosion in the Middle East."

Arafat's advisor Nabil Abu Rudeineh said Arafat's address to the UN will stress the Palestinian right to declare its independence after the interim period ends in May.

The session took place in Gaza hours before Arafat was scheduled to fly to Brussels for the first leg of his trip to Europe and then to the

US. He is scheduled to arrive in the US tomorrow.

PA sources said Arafat is determined to carry through his plans to declare a Palestinian state on May 4, 1999.

PA Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdul Rahman warned of bloody Palestinian resistance to any Israeli military action to limit the new state.

"The Palestinian people will confront the Israeli military machine with our blood and bodies if necessary," he said. "We will not accept the Israeli occupation again. Israel should think 1,000 times before carrying out any aggressive acts the Palestinian people."

Abdul Rahman said the Arab and Islamic world already recognize the Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem. He said the PA also enjoys the support of virtually all the international community as the government of the Palestinians.

Beilin: Arafat only threatening

By SARAH HONIG

Labor MK Yossi Beilin, one of the architects of the Oslo Accords, is convinced that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is not set on declaring independent statehood and is only threatening to do so in case there is no second phase redeployment.

Beilin said after meeting Arafat in Gaza at midday yesterday that he "did not have to make any effort to convince Arafat not to make his move. He does not really want to make it."

"From Arafat's vantage point this would be an act of last resort. He realizes that this would be a unilateral step and he would like to avoid having to take it. His aim is to reach agreement before his deadline. Only if no agreement is achieved, will he make his declaration," Beilin said.

Beilin also reported that he told Arafat that "even people like myself will have to say that any unilateral declaration of independence contradicts the terms of Oslo. I might understand that he does it because he has no other alternative, but technically it is a violation of Oslo and I do not want any violations which could sever the peace process."

Beilin remains optimistic that an agreement is still possible in the seven months remaining in the interim phase of the Oslo Accords.

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak phoned Arafat yesterday afternoon to implore him "not to play into [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's hands." He warned that Netanyahu would like nothing better than a unilateral move which would let him off the Oslo hook once and for all.

Barak further urged Arafat to facilitate an agreement on the second phase of redeployment to make

it possible to reach a final status agreement.

"Only dialogue can prevent superfluous violence," Barak argued.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat, however, said she is sure that "all the advice Arafat is getting from Labor will not prevent him from making his declaration. It is nothing to do with whether he gets a further redeployment or not. This is also not just a formalistic breach of Oslo but a substantive violation."

"He wants a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Arafat can make his declaration because he knows he has support among some Israelis. He has no real peaceful intentions. His aim is just to win slice after slice of territory in order to insure the establishment of an Arab state in Israel's place," Livnat maintained.

"He will not stop with Jerusalem. He will demand Tel Aviv, too," she asserted.

Meretz MK Ran Cohen yesterday expressed support for the establishment of a Palestinian state and called on Netanyahu "to wise up. A Palestinian state can be beneficial to Israel and ensure peace via economic harmony and good neighborliness. Netanyahu knows such a state will be set up and he should not fight the inevitable but make the best of it for Israel's sake."

Batsheva Tsor adds: President Ezer Weizman, who has kept up an open line of communication with Arafat, also urged the Palestinian leader not to unilaterally declare a state.

"Arafat will be heading for trouble if he declares a state. From the legal point of view, he has a very flimsy basis for that," Weizman said while visiting a soldier injured in a bomb blast yesterday at a Mount Scopus bus stop.

Winning Numbers

In yesterday's Payis Hatzak drawing, ticket number 194664 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 775432 won the cash. Tickets 454607, 140477, 116502, 196783, 729872, 147322, 177352 and 501544 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 84996, 80198, 92098, 30686, 02633, 22856, 33225, 02444, 19155, 55426, 25644, 70569, 02481, 36848, 62835, 23404, 51341, 20482 and 96274 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 164, 107, 040 and 995 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 24, 88, 72 and 80 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 05 and 02 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 5 and 1 won NIS 10.

The winning numbers in last night's Lotto draw were: 40, 39, 35, 21, 6, 1. The additional number was 4.

Reports: SLA pulled out of stronghold north of security zone

By DAVID RUDGE

The reported abandonment by the South Lebanese Army of a strategic stronghold near Jezzine has sparked speculation in the Lebanese press of a pending SLA pullout from the Christian enclave north of the security zone.

According to Lebanese reports, the SLA withdrew from the Tuma Niha position last Thursday and then blew up the hilltop outpost.

The speculation was fuelled by

comments made earlier this week by SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad that the SLA would agree to hand over the Jezzine area to Lebanese control, if the Lebanese Army would deploy in the area. He was also quoted as demanding that the Lebanese army prevent the entry of armed groups into the town.

According to other Lebanese reports, the IDF has been reconsidering how it deploys forces in the security zone, particularly in the northeastern sector.

Some Lebanese analysts said that if Jezzine was no longer controlled by the SLA, the prime reason for the existence of these outposts in the distant northeastern corner of the zone would cease to exist. The zone could be made more compact and, ostensibly more tenable, the analysts said.

A pullout from these positions beforehand, however, would leave Jezzine completely isolated and the position of SLA troops there virtually untenable. Such a move would be viewed as a surrender on the part of Israel, the analysts said.

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סדרה של הרב

Leaflets denounce Arab candidate as 'traitor'

By AMY KLEIN
and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Pamphlets distributed in east Jerusalem are denouncing an Arab candidate in the city's mayoral race as a traitor and threatening the start of a new intifada.

In addition, an editorial published in the pro-Palestinian Authority daily *Al-Ayyam* on Wednesday, called on Jerusalem Arabs to boycott the municipal elections scheduled for November.

Two Arab parties – the first ever to run in Jerusalem elections – are fielding candidates: the Independent Arab List, headed by Musa Alayan of Beit Safafa, and Hadash, headed by Nazim Bader, who is also running for mayor.

Jerusalem's Meretz list also has an Arab candidate, Mofid Jaber, who is in the seventh slot.

The leaflets against Alayan, handed out in recent days, were issued by a group calling itself "The National Leadership in Jerusalem."

"Raise up the voices of our people in Jerusalem from every neighborhood and village against dealing with this outlaw, whom we consider a traitor to the Palestinians' national will," they say.

Alayan, an Israeli citizen, said he expected opposition to his candidacy, but stressed that his campaign has "nothing to do with political issues like control of Jerusalem – which is all the responsibility of the Palestinian Authority."

He added that his party wants to deal with "day-to-day" issues, such as improving living conditions in Arab neighborhoods.

The Palestinian National Council, the PA's parliamentary body, decided at a meeting last week at Al Kuds University to oppose Arab candidates running in the election.

PNC member Hatem Abdel Qader, who was at the meeting, said the council could not stop Alayan from running, but would not cooperate with him.

"We are against the election, because it is a political issue. Jerusalem is occupied," Abdel Qader said.

The *Al-Ayyam* editorial, written by Hassan Al-Batal – former editor of a PLO magazine in Cyprus – said that by voting in city elections, Arabs would be complying with Israeli rule, while also harming the PA's chances in final-status negotiations.

Jerusalem is a political matter, not a municipal one, Al-Batal wrote.

A recent poll conducted by *The Jerusalem Times* an English-language Palestinian weekly, found that nearly 54 percent of Palestinians in east Jerusalem oppose participating in the election.

The main reason given was that "voting will support the Israeli claim that Jerusalem is the united capital of Israel."

Over 35% of those surveyed think Palestinians should vote – which is nearly triple the 12% turnout rate in the last elections.

The main reason they support voting is because they think an Arab list could improve living conditions for Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Another reason cited in favor of Palestinians participating in the vote is that "an Arab list would support the Palestinian political position vis-a-vis Jerusalem."

Over 50% of those polled said the PNC should leave it up to individual Palestinians to decide whether to vote.

Only 3 percent said the PNC should encourage Palestinians to vote in the municipal elections.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Hebron Jews demand action after shooting

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Hebron Jewish Community yesterday called on the government to stop negotiating with the Palestinians and demanded the IDF carry out hot pursuit in Hebron's Palestinian H1 sector, after shots were fired from a passing car at a Kiryat Arba man's van yesterday morning.

No one was injured in the incident, which occurred at Givat Harsina, near Hebron. The perpetrators' car fled toward H1.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan said one of the bullets entered the back window of the van and four empty shells were found at the site.

Amon said the Kiryat Arba man, a disc jockey named Shimon Dahan, was traveling with a Palestinian worker who narrowly escaped injury.

"It was a miracle that no one was killed or injured," said Amon, who noted that the community had sent several letters to the OC Central Command over the past few months demanding the IDF change its security conception regarding the city. "As negotiations on further withdrawals continue, terrorism is on the rise. We demand the prime minister stop all talks with the PLO."

The IDF Spokesman said that, since August, four shooting inci-

dents have been reported in Judea and Samaria, including yesterday's. Late at night on September 10, shots were fired at a bus transporting yeshiva students to Joseph's Tomb in Nablus; no one was injured. On August 28, shots were fired from a passing car at solar water heaters on the rooftops of homes in Al Aroub. Police arrested Boaz Haetzni, 30, of Givat Harsina in Kiryat Arba on suspicion of firing the shots. On August 4, terrorists shot to death yeshiva students Shlomo Lieberman, 24, and Harel Bin-Nun, 20, two yeshiva students as they were patrolling the security fence in Yitzhar near Nablus.

Meanwhile the civil administration said the security authorities have allowed 21,000 Palestinians to continue working in Israel under the "Continued Employment" project that was recently inaugurated by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and the civil administration.

Despite the closure imposed on Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and the threat of terrorist attacks, civil administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said security forces continue to check additional applications for work permits. Palestinian males, married with children, who are at least 28 years old and have worked in Israel for at least two years, qualify for permits.



Hebron police examine the bullet-shattered rear window of Shimon Dahan's van yesterday.

(Flash 90)

Tibi files incitement complaint against Yahalom

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Dr. Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, yesterday lodged a complaint against Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom with the police.

Yahalom had accused Tibi of being a Hamas collaborator and said he should be dealt with accordingly. He was responding to an earlier comment of Tibi's in which he said that the Jerusalem Magistrates Court decision ordering Avshalom Ladan placed under house arrest for seven days was another example of Israel's "blue-and-white revolving door policy" and its slanted judicial system.

Ladani, 35, of Dolev, is suspected of shooting to death a Palestinian teenager and wounding another in Beitunya last Thursday. Ladani said his car was being stoned and he felt his life was in danger.

Speaking on Israel Radio yesterday, Yahalom said his remarks had been directed at Tibi's statements

on the judicial system. In saying that Tibi should be dealt with, he said, he meant that he should not be invited to appear on talk shows or be interviewed by the media.

Yahalom also said it is clear that the State Attorney's Office has no idea of the reality Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria face daily. "The State Attorney's Office should differentiate between a settler who gets out of his car and fires shots randomly at Palestinians and one who acts in self defense when his car comes under a heavy barrage of stones as he returns to his home or is on his way to work," he said.

He said that in the past month alone, there were some 72 incidents of stone throwing reported in the Beitunya area.

But the IDF Spokesman said yesterday that there have been 18 reports of stone throwing incidents in the area since the beginning of August.

Yahalom said that while he agreed that incidents of this type must be investigated out, he does

not understand why Ladani is being treated as the guilty party when he acted in self-defense.

Tibi, however, said it is clear that Yahalom's statements "had crossed the red lines and incited to physical violence." He called Yahalom "the protector of those who murder Palestinian children" and claimed that "135 Palestinian children were killed by settlers in the past year."

Tibi added that Ladani should have been held in jail, instead of house arrest, until the end of his trial, especially if the authorities believe he may attempt to obstruct the investigation in some way.

Meanwhile, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza said it would continue its public campaign against the State Attorney's Office.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi over Ladani's arrest.

The settlers claim that the police investigation is solely based on evidence collected from two Palestinians who took part in the stonethrowing and it is obvious that police had made a deal. Spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said the council has information the

police promised the two youths immunity if they testified.

But Opher Sivan, spokesman for the Judea and Samaria police, denied the council's claims.

Tayar said "open fire" regulations are very clear and the IDF briefs the security heads of the communities every few months and asks them to inform the residents.

Arbel hits back at settlers: 'The facts must be studied'

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Reacting to settler protests against the arrest of Avshalom Ladan as a suspect in the fatal shooting of a Palestinian teenager and the wounding of another, State Attorney Edna Arbel said yesterday that her office would not bow to pressures from groups publishing advertisements in newspapers or printing slogans.

"It is fashionable right now to attack the courts, the State Attorney's Office and the police," Arbel said. "But this will not discourage us. When we have to carry out an investigation [into an incident] we shall do so and we

will not give in to pressure groups."

Arbel said that she was "aware of the tremendous pressure" under which the settlers were living. She discounted the settlers' allegations that the Justice Ministry officials "were out of touch with the reality in the field."

"The attorney-general has held many meetings in which settlers expressed their feelings," she said.

Ministry officials also go out to the territories and see things for themselves, Arbel said on Israel Radio.

"We understand the special security situation in the field... the tremendous tension, the two hostile populations [living there together],

the terrible feeling of being stoned while one is driving." But, she said, every incident has to be examined independently.

"No group likes one of its members to be arrested. But other groups do not try to launch attacks [on the law enforcers]," she said. "The facts must be studied. If someone is innocent, he will be freed. In the final analysis, the facts are brought before the court and it is the body empowered to decide."

Ministry officials have no intention of trying to please pressure groups, she reiterated. "We are not politicians who can afford to curry favor with one sector or another. We accept criticism but only if it is valid."

To: Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu

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One hurt in Mt. Scopus bombing

A rude wake-up call

By SHI DAVID

By AMY KLEIN and news agencies

Security forces were beefed up in Jerusalem yesterday following a bomb explosion outside the Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus, which moderately wounded a soldier waiting for a bus.

A small bomb placed in a plastic container at a bus stop across from the university's Rothberg School for Overseas Students exploded at 8 a.m., wounding Amir Davidian, 20, from Jerusalem's Beit Hakerem neighborhood. Davidian was the only person at the bus stop, which is also a popular hitchhiking station for soldiers.

Security forces called to the scene searched the campus extensively, but did not find any other explosives. Publication of further details about the bomb and evidence found at the site has been banned.

No group has claimed responsibility for yesterday's incident, police said.

One Palestinian was detained at a checkpoint in northern Jerusalem on suspicion that his car was seen fleeing from the scene of the attack. Police released the man, but kept his car for further investigation.

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki believes the bomb was placed by terrorists, and he said the terrorist might have even

come by foot from a nearby Arab village. There have been no specific warnings about yesterday's or a future attack, he said, but police remain on high alert for a retaliatory attack following the security forces' killing of the Awadallah brothers two weeks ago.

Police are preparing for larger and more serious attacks, Yitzhaki said, and urged the public to be cautious. "A greater alertness of the soldier at the bus stop or of passersby could have prevented the incident," Yitzhaki said.

Davidian suffered injuries to his head and is listed in satisfactory condition in the neurosurgery unit at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem. President Ezer Weizman visited him at the hospital yesterday. "I was sitting alone at the stop, trying my shoelaces, when I heard a loud boom," Davidian told the president. "All the glass exploded, the stop was destroyed, and people came and took me to the hospital shortly after," he said.

The bomb could have done far greater damage if it was set off half an hour later, university rector Menahem Ben-Sasson said. The international school's courses begin at 8:30, and many students would have been in the vicinity of the explosion, he said. But when the bomb exploded at 8, no one was in the school.



Soldier Amir Davidian is visited by his commanding officer yesterday at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem. (Flash 90)

Shalom Steinberg got a wake up call like no other in his life yesterday morning.

"I didn't just hear the bomb. I felt the bomb," said the 21-year-old Hebrew University student. "It was really weird. I was lying in my bed - my place is about 250 meters from where it happened. You feel it twice. You feel it physically, your bed starts shaking, and then you feel the sound. I got scared."

The bombing wounded one soldier, no students, and damaged the Goldsmith Building of the Rothberg International School and a bus shelter. The explosion happened before any classes were in session.

Students varied in their reactions to the explosion, but all said that they wouldn't let it affect their lives.

"You can't do that," said Steinberg, who is from Calgary. "I still feel safer in Israel than I do in Canada."

Gadi Rams, 25, a first-year art history student, said the bomb wouldn't change anything in his routine.

"I'll take the bus that I always take," he said as he stared at the pile of glass and metal that had been a bus shelter. "I'm not going to change my life because of what the Arabs do."

Rams, born in Rio de Janeiro and raised in Nice, said he doesn't worry about bombings, but his

mother in France does.

"All the time, mom worries," he said with a smile. "I phoned already this morning. I have to tell her that I'm okay. She said, 'If you have to be in Jerusalem okay, but you have to phone me if something happens.'"

None of the students said they felt any pressure from their families to return home.

Tali Ginsburg, 23, of Melbourne, said the toughest part of dealing with bombings is worrying about family and friends.

"It's the fact that you might know someone," she said as she watched police examine the bomb site. "Last year when the bombs went off in the Rehov Ben-Yehuda Pedestrian Mall, three of my friends were there. Two were in hospital. This is ridiculous what they're doing. There's no end to any of it."

Brian Tessler, 21, of Philadelphia, said he had "no words" to describe how he felt.

"It makes you realize that all the security is here for a reason," he said. "What happens in the politics here has real ramifications."

After the explosion, counselors were sent to speak to overseas students in their dormitories, and phone lines were made available for them to call their families, the Hebrew University's media relations department said.

Teachers were also asked to calm students before starting class.

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State C complain

By LIAT COLLINS

mother in France does. "All the time, mom worries," he said with a smile. "I phoned already this morning. I have to tell her that I'm okay. She said, 'If you have to be in Jerusalem okay, but you have to phone me if something happens.'"

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سكنى من الارض

State Control Committee hears complaints of 'political dismissals'

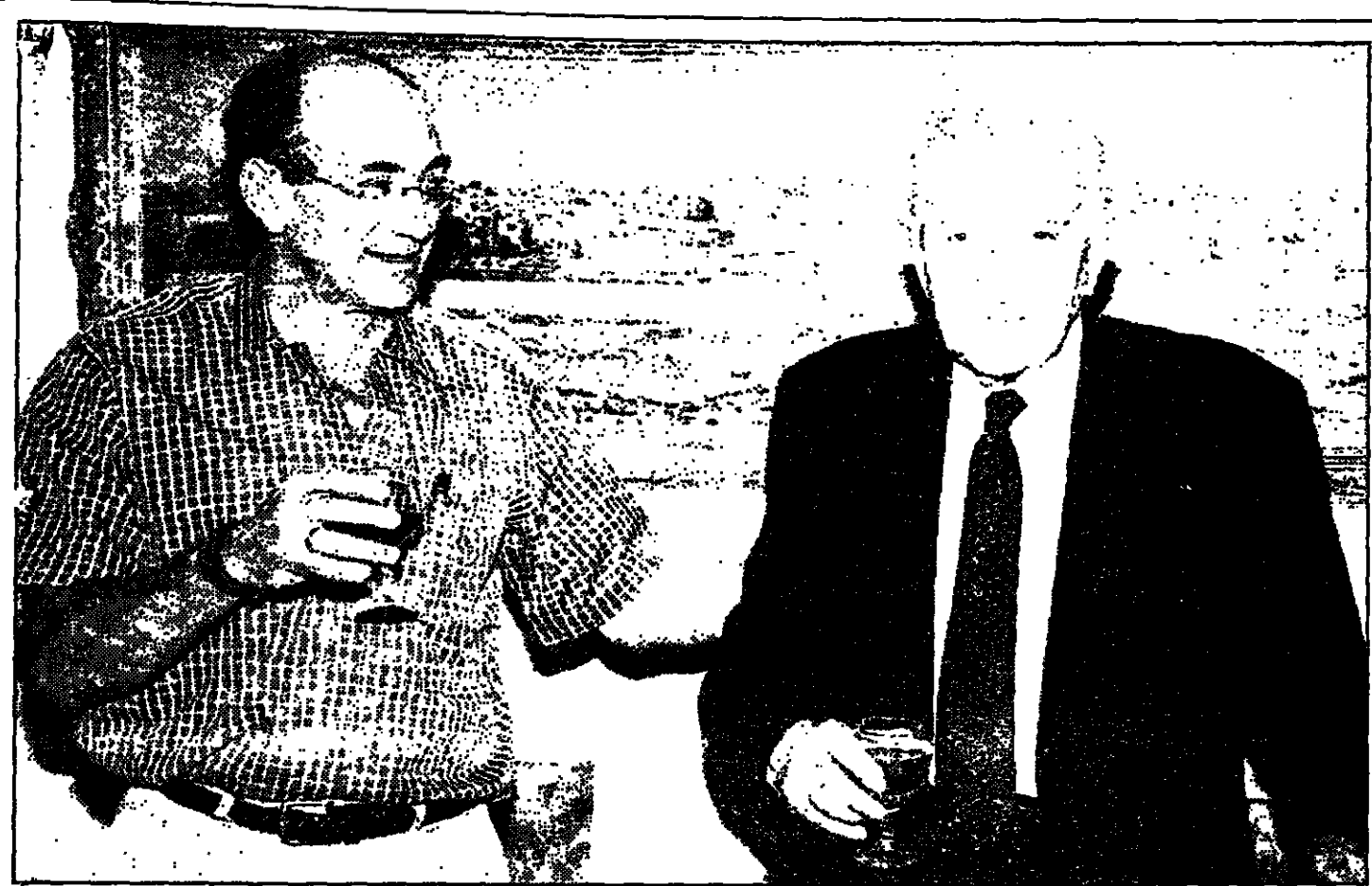
By LIAT COLLINS

A former employee complained yesterday before the Knesset State Control Committee of politically-motivated dismissals in the Aguda Le'arbut Hadyur, a local association of condominium owners. Reuven Zadok, who heads the association, rejected the charges. The committee heard from Sam Ben-Sheetrit, a former Tarbut Hadyur worker who claimed the association had fired 13 people associated with the Labor Party, on the pretext of financial cutbacks. He said that at the same time, new people had been appointed. Ben-Sheetrit also accused Zadok of instigating a "reign of terror" in the association, adding that other employees had lost their motivation.

Zadok said that the dismissals were done through proper channels and carried out for organizational reasons, to reduce an inflated administrative apparatus. In answer to a question by State Comptroller Eliezer Goldberg, Zadok said some five or six new people had been appointed following the dismissals. State Control Committee Chairman Yossi Katz (Labor) said the committee would hear from Deputy Housing and Construction Minister Meir Porush at a future meeting and decide whether or not to refer the matter back to the State Comptroller. The committee had convened in special session to discuss the State Comptroller's report on the association and complaints by Amitai, a watchdog group for proper administrative procedure.

The Comptroller's Report last year said Zadok had been appointed without meeting the necessary criteria. It also criticized the functioning of the Committee for the Supervision of Appointments. The chairman of the appointments Committee, retired justice Mordechai Ben-Dror, told the MKs that it is possible that it occasionally makes a mistake because it deals with thousands of people. He said, however, that the committee faithfully carries out its work and does have an appeal procedure. He said the law does not allow the committee to discuss whether a candidate is suitable for a post but limits it to determining whether a person meets the basic formal requirements. Katz said he would consider submitting legislative amendments regarding the

appointment of senior figures in the public sector. Representatives of Amitai said Zadok had studied electrical studies in a yeshiva high school and had not matriculated. In a separate meeting the committee also discussed government plans to privatize the Government Advertising Office. GAO head Natan Meir reported to MKs about the economic and organizational benefits of the office remaining a government body. Shimon Stein, legal adviser of the Prime Minister's Office, said that although the government had decided in principle to privatize wherever it makes sense, a closer examination of the GAO was still needed. Katz, who favors maintaining the GAO in its government format, asked that the committee be updated on the issue.



Moving plans

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (left) and President Ezer Weizman chat about where to build a new presidential residence during a reception for Jerusalem city council members held yesterday in honor of Rosh Hashana. Mount Scopus is one site being considered for a new Beit Hanassi. (Text: Eilat Tsur, Photo: Brian Hendler)

MK seeks to bar 'racist' mayoral candidate

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Micha Goldman (Labor) has asked the Central Elections Committee to bar Ze'ev Hartman from running for mayor of Upper Nazareth on a joint Tsomet-Gesher-Moledet list. The request follows several news interviews in which Hartman has said that the Arab residents of Nazareth should be banned from Upper Nazareth as they get drunk and sexually harass the local girls. "Hartman is racist and a person like that should be barred from all public activities and particularly the mayor's office," Goldman, who chairs the Interior Committee, said. Hartman this week told both Israel Radio and Army Radio that Arab youths go to Jewish neighborhoods to escape from the strict behavior codes of their own sector. "The Arabs consistently and constantly harass the Jewish women and they cannot go out on their own anymore," Hartman told Army Radio yesterday. He said as mayor he would make it clear that the Arabs had no business being in the Jewish neighborhood and would establish road-blocks to ensure they stayed out.

NEWS

in brief

Court stops expansion of Ness Ziona plant

The High Court of Justice yesterday temporarily suspended government plans to expand the Biological Institute in Ness Ziona. The court approved an arrangement agreed upon by State Attorney Edna Arbel and Ness Ziona municipal attorney Shai Segal under which expansion plans for the institute will be frozen while an environmental study is conducted. The court will reconvene to discuss the issue after an external body reviews the effects the expansion could have on the environment. The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement that the institute, established in 1952, "has never endangered its surroundings nor experienced a work accidents in which employees died."

Jerusalem Post Staff

Meshulam sentenced to an extra 10 months

Cult leader Uzi Meshulam was sentenced to 10 months in prison and eight months' probation by Ramle Magistrate's Court yesterday. He had been convicted of insulting a civil servant, insulting former internal security minister Moshe Shaleh, and making threats. Meshulam was also convicted of attempting to damage property belonging to Ayalon Prison, where he is serving a sentence on charges stemming from the 1994 police siege of a Lod home used by the cult. One person was killed in the incident. Meshulam was not present for sentencing. He was in the Prisons Service medical facility at Ayalon after complaining of feeling ill.

Itim

Youth groups oppose funding criteria change

The leaders of the country's 12 Zionist youth movements decided yesterday to jointly oppose the change in criteria for funding of youth organizations instituted by Education Minister Yitzhak Levy. They released a statement saying that the criteria for youth movements should be separated from those of other organizations. Council of Youth Movements chairman Nissim Shalem said he had spoken to Oded Cohen, the ministry deputy director-general in charge of youth matters, who asked to relay a message that "the money for the Zionist-pioneering youth movements will not be harmed." Shalem asked for a written undertaking to this effect. The council leaders also decided to ask for an urgent meeting with Levy.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Birds found crashing into Ramat Gan offices

A volunteer with the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and the Let the Animals Live welfare group has noted scores of dead birds lying at the foot of the Ramat Gan office block complex. Nature Protection and National Parks Authority wardens believe that the willow warblers were passing by on their way to Africa. The reflection of lights in the office block windows together with little natural moonlight apparently confuses the birds who do not notice the building and fly into it. The wardens are examining the dead birds for rings which could provide more information on their migration patterns. The small songbirds, which are a greenish-yellow color, live part of the year in eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

Liat Collins

Levy orders schools to fight violence

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy ordered principals yesterday to come up with a program for combating school violence. The ministry has meanwhile pledged to assign intervention teams to work with problem schools. There are also plans to form a Public Council on Violence, comprised of educators, academics, parents and pupils. Levy, who announced the steps at a meeting with the Union of Local Authorities' Education Committee in Tel Aviv, told

Israel Radio: "The committee will be a public committee that will monitor the matter throughout the year, including the programs, work in the various school districts, and will advise me on this matter." There was also a lengthy discussion of a recent increase in student population at haredi schools. ULA Education Committee Chairman Shmuel Abuav said this was because the haredi schools offer better transportation and longer school hours. Levy said that the long school day experiment would be

widened to include 330 more kindergartens. He also said that 50 more kindergarten classrooms would be built this year as part of a three-year plan to lower the compulsory school age to four. Abuav and the ULA yesterday warned against shutting afternoon programs for some 1,500 poor families run by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry. "This must not be done," he said, warning that such youngsters could wind up in the streets. According to reports, hot lunches have already been cancelled for needy youngsters.

Black Conservative Jews get immigrant status

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

After a four-month battle, the Interior Ministry agreed Wednesday to give immigrant status to Sara Yisrael and her four children, a family of American blacks from Chicago who underwent a Conservative conversion in the US some 10 years ago and arrived here in May. According to the Masorti Movement in Israel, an official document was received from the Interior Ministry's deputy legal adviser ending the dispute. "It's been a long struggle," Yisrael said yesterday. "I'm happy for us, but when I get down to the Interior Ministry and see that we really get the temporary residents' documents I'll believe it. Seeing will be believing."

"We've been through a great deal, and been told many things that turned out not to be correct. We're waiting to see the reality. At least this is a step forward for us that will let us do the things that not having a status has been preventing. The feeling of relief is definitely there." The father of the family, Elazar Yisrael, received Israeli citizenship in August 1996, also after a legal battle. He then returned to the US to prepare his family to come here. However, according to the movement, when the family asked a local aliya emissary to help prepare its immigration, they were told that only the Interior Ministry in Jerusalem would handle their request. When the family arrived here, they were detained by airport police and questioned about their knowledge of Judaism.

They were then permitted entry for one month only, after which they were going to have to leave the country. In July, the family's lawyer, Dan Evron, was told by the Interior Ministry that the family would receive A5 temporary resident visas for two months, during which time it would investigate the legal status of Sara Yisrael's grandchildren from a previous marriage, who are in Israel without their parents. The status of the grandchildren has not yet been determined, Yisrael said yesterday. The case attracted wide media attention, but even the intervention of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Adviser on Diaspora Affairs Bobby Brown failed to elicit a response from the Interior Ministry.

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Grass-root Green

FULDA, Germany — It may have been mere coincidence, not omen, but the weather changed with the scenery as our high-speed train flashed over the now invisible border between east and west Germany.

Low black cloud, swirling mists, and neglected bleak landscapes gave way to blue sky, sunshine, and groomed fields that positively glistened with autumnal green and gold.

The obvious differences between the former people's paradise and the rolling green prosperity of the west are slowly disappearing. While it is taking much longer than anyone expected in 1990 — it is surprising, too, that anyone expected anything to change fast in Germany.

Solid, stolid, and conservative are still cardinal virtues. Beneath the green and pleasant landscapes, however, something is stirring this week, and the color, too, is Green.

Before long, we may see a German on the world stage like no other German we have seen in such a position.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

lars to save energy. The hall was a youth culture center, painted black inside with high-tiered wooden benches along the walls and banks of disco lights hanging from the ceiling. It was empty, 20 minutes to the scheduled hour.

Ten minutes later the audience began to arrive in droves, pouring in until the place was packed to the seams. They might be Green, but when it comes to precision punctuality, they are still Germans.

At a meeting of Kohl's Christian Democrats, we attended the previous day in Neuenhagen, a gray town east of Berlin, the average age of the 200 or so audience was 55, the average gender male, the average suit brown and old, the average mood somber. They looked pretty representative of the town's spirit.

Here in Fulda, the average age was 18 — though there was a good crowd of baby-boomers as well as sweet sixteens, the genders were together and holding hands, the mood was bright as buttons and there was no average dress.

He admitted himself taken aback by the crowd in Fulda — he had never seen such a gathering of youth there, he said. Most of them had known nothing but Kohl in their lifetimes, he said to loud laughter, implying an average age of 16. "Kohl has his place in history, but it's time to go. Now all he represents is stagnation."

Even the economic problems have stagnated, said Joscha to more laughter — they are the same as they were in 1982. "Do you want 16 more years of the same New Year speeches?" he growled in a perfect Kohl imitation — an in-joke, for a few years ago state television broadcast by accident a previously aired Kohl New Year address, and nobody noticed.

Fischer quickly zeroed in on the same problems as every other party in this campaign — jobs, pensions, welfare, fighting xenophobia. He is clearly one former woolly, lefty who has moved on to serious political and economic uplands.

And he seems to be one of the few who can explain it to generally cynical youngsters — there are 3.3 million new voters this year.

He received thunderous applause for his promise to make environment a key issue in government, and a standing ovation for a passionate defense of the much-maligned foreign immigrants, whom he said have enriched German society with their presence and their culture.

At Tutz in the heartland of ultra-conservative Bavaria, I asked Heinrich Oberreuter, director of the Academy for Political Education, what Germans make of Fischer and Greens who may now come into government. "I must say, Greens voters are highly intelligent," he said, with a faint sniff. "It's the opposite with their policies."

Baroque, baby. The small town of Fulda in Hesse is almost dead center in Germany, on the crossover routes between Hamburg, Berlin, Munich, and Frankfurt.

Dead is a good word. The town is picturesque, with a classic baroque cathedral and an ancient history. It is gleamingly clean and modern, too, obviously prosperous and utterly bourgeois.

As we strolled up the cobbled streets we wondered who in Fulda's name would turn out on a Tuesday night to see a minority bunch of lefty longhairs in sandals coming to explain away their great election blunder — a pledge to raise the price of gasoline to 13 dol-

UK, Iran raise ties after Rushdie deal

By PAUL TAYLOR

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) — Britain and Iran sealed a landmark agreement to restore full diplomatic relations yesterday after Tehran formally dissociated itself from a death edict against British writer Salman Rushdie.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook described the deal with Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi as historic. It was reached more than nine years after the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini condemned the author of *The Satanic Verses* to death for blaspheming Islam.

Rushdie himself, invited to the Foreign Office in London to hear the news, voiced delight and relief after spending nearly a decade in hiding under British police guard.

"Well, it looks like it is over," he said. "It means everything, it means freedom." Khomeini's *fatwa* or religious order has been a major obstacle to better relations between Iran and the West.

Although Tehran says it cannot rescind the decree, it came close to that in yesterday's carefully negotiated statement.

"The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has no intention, nor is it going to take any action whatsoever to threaten the life of the author of the *Satanic Verses* or anybody associated with his work, nor will it encourage or assist anybody to do so," Kharrazi declared, standing by Cook's side at United Nations headquarters.

"Accordingly the government dissociates itself from any reward which has been offered in this regard and does not support it," he added.

He repeated Iran's strong condemnation of a book which he said "insults our sacred Islamic values."

A \$2.5 million bounty on Rushdie's head, offered by the



British Foreign Minister Robin Cook (left) listens yesterday as Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi speaks at a meeting at the United Nations. Iran has said it is ready to exchange ambassadors with Britain. (AP)

15th of Khordad foundation — a non-governmental welfare fund — remains in force.

In return, Cook stated that Britain "regretted the offense that the book *The Satanic Verses* has caused to Muslims in Iran and elsewhere in the world."

He also said neither Britain nor the European Union condoned the book's content.

"These assurances should make possible a much more constructive relationship between the United Kingdom — and I believe the European Union — with Iran and

the opening of a new chapter in our relations," Cook told reporters.

The agreement followed a statement by reformist Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Tuesday that the Rushdie affair should be considered as "completely finished."

House panel to vote next month on impeachment inquiry

By DAVID WIESSLER

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The House Judiciary Committee will vote on October 5 or 6 whether to launch a formal impeachment inquiry into 11 charges against President Bill Clinton, it announced yesterday.

If the committee approves the inquiry, chairman Henry Hyde said, the full House will vote on the measure a few days later, probably on October 8 or 9.

"Like all Americans I want to bring this matter to closure as soon as possible," Hyde said. "The timetable I've proposed today is the most expeditious schedule we can follow. I urge everyone to be patient, allow our system of law to work."

At a White House ceremony trumpeting the decline in the nation's poverty rate, Clinton forcefully urged Congress to end political wrangling and move ahead with other urgent business that Americans are

interested in. But Republicans in Congress made it clear they will keep impeachment before the public in the less than six weeks left before the November election.

Hyde said at the end of next week the committee will be briefed by its staff on the 65,000 pages of evidence handed over by an independent counsel Kenneth Starr but not yet released to the public. The committee will meet in open session the following week for the vote on whether to continue.

Among the items to be considered for the next round of public release are the depositions of Clinton's friend Vernon Jordan, Clinton's secretary Betty Currie, and Secret Service officers, a transcript of the tapes of Lewinsky made by her former friend Linda Tripp, and the tapes themselves.

Committee sources said a battle is still possible over release of the Tripp tapes, which contain more

sexual details but also material the Democrats think could help the president.

Hyde said there is a lot on the Tripp tapes that has no bearing on the impeachment case and there is information that could embarrass innocent people.

"The information that should go out, should go out, but there is an awful lot there that shouldn't go out," he said.

House Democrats, who on Wednesday started a drumbeat of calls for a deadline for a quick end to the investigation, huddled yesterday afternoon to respond to Hyde.

"It's unacceptable to pretend to be conducting a bipartisan investigation and then vote not to release the tapes," said Rep. Marty Meehan of Massachusetts. "In the tapes, when you can listen to them, you can get a better sense of the credibility or lack of credibility."

Meehan also said he would like Starr himself to be called before committee to answer questions.

Jordan's parliament votes confidence in new government

By JAMAL HALABY

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Parliament yesterday gave a heavy vote of confidence to the new cabinet, but many deputies urged slowing down efforts to normalize ties to Israel under the peace treaty that was negotiated by the new prime minister.

The 23-member cabinet of Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh received 64 votes in the 80-member Chamber of Deputies — the heaviest vote in favor of a government in recent history.

The vote in effect installs the cabinet, appointed by King Hussein on August 20, a day after the previous government resigned amid a public outcry over polluted drinking water and accusations that it had misled the country about economic growth.

A unified statement by 53 deputies from both hard-line and moderate blocs urged the government to cease a drive for normal

ties with Israel, because of its "egotistic and intransigent" policies.

In response, Tarawneh said he is committed to the 1994 peace treaty and vowed to use Jordan's good relations with Israel to help move forward Israel's negotiations with other Arabs, namely Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians.

The statement against normalization with Israel reflects widespread dissatisfaction with the peace treaty, which failed to bring the economic benefits forecast to result from making peace.

Tarawneh, 50, is a liberal who served as ambassador to the United States three years ago and led the Jordanian negotiating team with Israel that culminated in the peace treaty.

Twelve lawmakers voted against the cabinet, two abstained, and one was absent. The speaker did not cast a ballot under parliamentary bylaws.

British arrest Saudi friend of bin Laden, 6 others

By SUSAN CORNWELL

LONDON (Reuters) — A Saudi friend of Islamic militant Osama bin Laden and an Egyptian sentenced to death for trying to blow up a Cairo bazaar were among seven men arrested in a swoop by British police, Arab sources said yesterday.

Khaled al-Fawaz, the London representative of the Saudi dissident Advice and Reform Committee, which advocates the ousting of the Saudi monarchy, was arrested along with Egyptian Adel Abdul Maged Abdul-Bari and five other Egyptians, the sources said.

Scotland Yard has confirmed the arrest of seven Middle Eastern men in pre-dawn raids on Wednesday in an anti-terrorist investigation codenamed "Operation Challenge."

It has refused to identify the suspects.

Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based *Al-Quds al-Arabi* newspaper, said al-Fawaz's wife told him that men in civilian clothes had arrived at their London home early Wednesday morning and taken her husband away.

In recent interviews with Western media, al-Fawaz described himself as an old friend of bin Laden, a Saudi-born millionaire who is alleged by the United States to have been involved in bomb attacks last month targeting two US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. More than 260 people, mainly Kenyans, were killed.

Al-Fawaz and Abdul-Bari are both members of the Advice and Reform Committee, which considers the

Saudi monarchy corrupt.

But al-Fawaz has distanced himself from violence, while describing bin Laden as a wise and kind man. "Mr. al-Fawaz always confirmed that he is against violence, and he distanced himself from bin Laden's call for holy war in private and in public he condemned violence," Atwan said.

A London-based Moslem activist, Bakri Mohammad, said the six Egyptians who were arrested were political refugees who had not been involved with terrorist activities.

But Abdul-Bari has been sentenced to death in absentia for trying to blow up a bazaar in Cairo.

He was also named by the Egyptian government's "Call to Combat Terrorism" catalogue released last November after the slaughter of 58 tourists in Luxor by Islamic militants.

The catalogue said Abdul-Bari and 14 other Egyptian militants masterminded violent acts from abroad. Mohammad, a spokesman for the Mujahidoun group which says it wants an Islamic world order, named the other five Egyptian detainees as Hani al-Sibai, Abdul-Maged Fahmy, Abu Mussab As-Souri, Ahmed Abdel Maqsooud, and Sajed Ajami.

The seven suspects, who were arrested under Britain's Prevention of Terrorism Act, were being questioned for a second day at a London police station, Scotland Yard said.

Atwan said he believed the British government had acted to send a message to Islamic fundamentalist groups abroad that "this is no longer a safe haven for them."

Iran on Afghan border for war games - TV

TEHRAN (Reuters) — Iranian troops poised to launch war games have deployed on the Afghan border, Iranian television reported yesterday.

"Following the completion of transport operations, the forces are deployed in the area and are ready for the main stage of the exercises to start," the television said.

It quoted Hassan Barati, a spokesman for the exercises, as saying that the participating units would "conduct tests with new weapons."

Units of Iran's air force and navy are also expected to take part.

The television showed footage of troops in the desert in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan border province with tanks, self-propelled guns, armored personnel carriers, anti-aircraft weapons and troops taking position in fox-holes.

Barati said the army had completed a three-day operation to move some 200,000 troops and equipment, including tanks and artillery, to the area of the exercises on Iran's eastern borders, where another 70,000 Revolutionary Guards are also stationed after recent maneuvers.

Islamic scholars yesterday urged

restraint on Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia in its showdown with Iran but threatened holy war if Tehran invaded the country.

The twin *fatwa* (religious verdict) were handed down by some 2,000 religious scholars (*ulema*) summoned by Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar to discuss the crisis with Iran.

"The *ulema* advises the authorities of the Islamic Emirate (Taliban) to use restraint and advises the Iranian *ulema* as well as its rulers that war between the two Muslim countries is of major damage to the world of Islam," the *fatwa* said.

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing at his home of

Prof. ZE'EV W. FALK

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on Saturday, September 19 (28 Elul) after a brief illness.
The funeral took place the same night.

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His brother, Ya'acov Yehuda

We share the grief of
Thea Charbit and family
on the passing of her father

VICTOR STARK

Activist in the movement for establishing the State of Israel
Distinguished Citizen of Haifa
Honorary Consul of Yugoslavia

In deep sorrow, his life-long friends
Dr. Francis Ofner,
Mag. Ph. Vladislav Guttman and comrades



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shall be for Your people,

the House of Israel, a year of
abundant prosperity... a year of
attainment and success, a year
of enjoyable living, a year of business
transactions, a year in which You will
bless our children and the fruit of our
land, a year of peace and serenity.

From the prayer of the
Cohen Gadol,
Yom Kippur Service

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Hundreds trapped in Kosovo assault

By ADAM BROWN

VASILEVO, Yugoslavia (AP) — As Yugoslav jets swooped overhead, frightened Kosovo civilians streamed southward yesterday, trying to escape a Serb and Yugoslav offensive that has trapped hundreds of ethnic Albanian guerrillas.

The boom of artillery sounded yesterday across the central Drenica region of the Serbian province, and Serb police sources said they divided the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army by taking over a main road through the rebels' last stronghold.

Later yesterday, the intensity of the fighting appeared to ease at least in some parts of the Drenica region. But it was impossible to determine whether the overall offensive had lessened in response to new signs of UN and NATO determination.

The UN Security Council threatened further action unless the fighting stopped. While not specifically mandating NATO action, the resolution Wednesday opened the way for international approval of involvement by the military alliance.

NATO ambassadors meeting in Portugal approved increased planning yesterday for air strikes in Kosovo. NATO will begin asking military commanders to identify participating countries and the use of weapons they will put at NATO's disposal.

The Serb-controlled Media Center in Kosovo's capital Pristina said police had "closed the ring

around strong groups of Albanian extremists," destroying their bases in 15 villages in the region.

Serb police and the Yugoslav army are close to wiping out all KLA resistance after a seven-month military campaign in Kosovo, a province of Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic.

Most ethnic Albanians, the vast majority in Kosovo, favor independence. World powers instead back autonomy for the province, arguing that independence can be achieved only through prolonged bloodshed.

More than 275,000 ethnic Albanian civilians have been driven from hundreds of destroyed villages, leaving an estimated 50,000 with no shelter as winter approaches.

The risk to refugees facing the harsh Balkan winter is driving Western efforts to get a commitment from Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to end the government offensive and permit mass refugee returns.

A 23-year-old Kosovo Liberation Army fighter, who said he left a factory job in Germany four months ago to join the rebels, said Serb forces had them cornered in an area west of Pristina and there was no escape.

"They are there, there and there," he said, pointing to three hilltops. "We can't leave. We'll only live if we win or if NATO threatens Milosevic to stop."

In villages west of Pristina, the situation appeared ever more desperate yesterday for Albanian rebels and civilians alike.



Turks defend Islamic mayor

Demonstrators cool off in an Istanbul fountain as they wave the Islamic Virtue Party's flag and hold a banner which reads, "Is it justice or disaster?" during a rally in support of Istanbul's pro-Islamic Mayor Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He and tens of thousands of his supporters assailed Turkey's justice system yesterday, a day after an appeals court upheld his prison sentence for inciting religious hatred.

India ready to abide by nuclear test ban

By NICOLE WINFIELD

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — India's prime minister said yesterday his country was prepared to conclude discussions on the nuclear test ban treaty, following Pakistan's pledge to sign on to the pact.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in prepared text he planned to deliver to the General Assembly Thursday that India wanted the treaty to go into force no later than September 1999.

On Wednesday, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said in his General Assembly speech that his country was ready to adhere to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, even as he warned that compliance would depend on whether rival India resumed its tests.

India had been participating in discussions in Geneva on the treaty through 1996, when it refused to continue, arguing that the declared nuclear powers had to agree to a deadline to destroy their arsenals.

The five declared powers — the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia — refused, and India pulled out of the talks.

Vajpayee said India conducted its nuclear tests in May because of the "deteriorating security environment which has obliged us to stand apart from the CTBT in 1996."

Now that India's security interests are settled, India wants to continue to cooperate with the international community and is in discussions with key countries on a range of issues, including the test

ban treaty.

"We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999," Vajpayee said in the text.

"We expect that other countries ... will adhere to this treaty without conditions," he said.

The United States and other nations imposed economic sanctions — cutting off all loans — after India and Pakistan carried out nuclear tests in May.

The tests sparked fears of a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

Sharif and Vajpayee met for nearly two hours Wednesday but achieved no breakthroughs over Kashmir, a simmering territorial dispute that took a perilous turn after the tests.

Greek police chief resigns over botched rescue

By ELENA RECATOROS

ATHENS (AP) — Greece's police chief stepped down yesterday in the widespread fallout following a bungled attempt to free three hostages held by the country's top fugitive.

The Greek-Romanian hostage taker, one captive and 10 police officers — including Police Chief Thanassis Vassilopoulos — were

injured when a hand grenade detonated during the late Wednesday siege to end the four-hour standoff broadcast live on television.

The operation was criticized as badly mismanaged. Questions were raised about whether top police officials joined the front-line assault in order to gain nationwide publicity and redeem the image of security forces, which allowed the convict to slip free

earlier this month after he took a police officer hostage.

The backlash reached as high as Public Order Minister George Romenos. But resignations submitted by Romenos and the ministry's secretary general, Yiannis Papadogiannakis, were not accepted by Premier Costas Simitis.

Simitis described the police operation as "a tragic event, a criminal action."

Primakov unveils part of economic plan

By MITCHELL LANDSBERG

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov yesterday finally mapped out a strategy for climbing out of Russia's deep economic chasm, including payments to the poor to compensate for inflation that could exceed 500 percent this year.

Two weeks after he was appointed, Primakov offered at least portions of his long-awaited economic plan to his still-incomplete cabinet. There were no real surprises.

As he has hinted in the past, Primakov proposed greater government intervention in the economy and a more tightly knit social safety net. But he made it clear that there would be no return to Soviet-style state socialism.

He said the government would impose tighter control over the liquor industry, always a potent source of revenue, but would not nationalize it. He promised better tax collection — a pledge that no Russian government yet has been able to meet — and said Russia would appeal to international lenders to make good on promised loans.

At the same time, two of his top economic aides issued sharp warnings to Western investors and lenders.

Central Bank chief Viktor Geraschenko said Russia wants to work out a settlement with foreign banks that hold billions of dollars

worth of Russian government bonds that are currently frozen.

But he warned: "Those who are stubborn in their greediness may end up getting nothing."

And First Vice Premier Alexander Shokhin warned that Russia could default on its international debt if the International Monetary Fund does not continue to extend financial help in the coming months.

"I don't want to scare people with the possibility of default on foreign debt," he said. "But we do need to count on the loyal attitude of our partners in the international financial organizations... in not canceling earlier agreed-upon aid packages."

The IMF organized a \$22.6 billion loan package in July and has issued the first installment. But it is expected to delay additional money until it's satisfied that Russia has sound financial policies.

Russia badly needs the money if it is to carry out the economic plans outlined by Primakov. The government is broke and will almost certainly have to print more money, a move that's virtually certain to push inflation even higher.

WORLD

in brief

Hurricane Georges kills more than 110

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Hurricane Georges killed 70 people in the Dominican Republic and left hundreds missing before sweeping over Cuba and threatening the Florida Keys. In all, more than 110 people were killed in the storm's three-day rampage through the Caribbean.

South Florida was put under a hurricane watch, and faced an expected hurricane warning later yesterday. Gov. Lawton Chiles declared a state of emergency in central and southern Florida, allowing the state to use the National Guard, lift tolls along evacuation routes, and purchase emergency supplies.

Dominican Republic President Leonel Fernandez, in a televised address to the nation Wednesday night, confirmed the 70 dead and the missing, including 45 who disappeared when a school being used as a shelter washed away Wednesday.

New \$20 bills to start circulating

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of planning and printing, the U.S. government yesterday began circulating a redesigned, harder-to-counterfeit \$20 bill.

The Federal Reserve's 12 regional banks began shipping 2 billion new notes to the America's banks, savings institutions, and credit unions. But the old notes will remain legal tender, said officials at a ceremony marking the introduction.

The most obvious change is the larger and off-center portrait of Andrew Jackson, the nation's seventh president, on the bill's face. The reverse features a picture of the north side of the White House (instead of the south side seen on the old notes).

To help people with poor vision, the bill's denomination appears in large dark numerals on a light background.

American income rises, poverty levels decline

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the third year running, American household income rose and poverty levels fell in 1997, returning the nation to pre-recession 1989 levels.

Last year, 13.3 percent of Americans lived in poverty, down from 13.7% in 1996, a decline led by blacks and Hispanics, the Census Bureau said yesterday in its annual income and poverty report.

Last year, the median household income for all Americans rose 1.9% to \$37,005, not statistically different from the peak in 1989, before the nation fell into recession.

Alaska had the highest median household income at \$50,829. Nationwide, 35.6 million people lived in poverty. Last year, a family of four was considered poor if its annual income was \$16,400 or less; for a family of three the poverty threshold was \$12,802.

Fragile calm restored to smoldering Lesotho

MASERU (Reuters) — A measure of calm returned to the burned-out capital of Lesotho yesterday as South African and Botswana troops maintained a close watch on the lawless streets.

Bands of looters still roamed the city, but in smaller numbers than on Wednesday, and the sound of gunfire was only sporadically heard.

A pall of smoke still hung over the city, which was engulfed by chaos on Tuesday when Pretoria poured troops into the tiny, mountainous kingdom at the request of Prime Minister Palesa Mosisili to quell what he called an army mutiny.

The commander of the joint intervention force said yesterday that organized military resistance had faded, but that his troops were still under sniper fire from rebel soldiers who had retreated to the hills surrounding Maseru.

At least 66 people were killed in fighting.

Bosnia election results again postponed

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Moderate Bosnian Serb leaders agreed yesterday to strengthen their coalition in the face of an expected victory for the hard-line presidential candidate, while final election results were delayed for a third time.

Initial tallies from Bosnia's September 12-13 election indicated that hard-liner Nikola Poplasen will succeed US-backed incumbent Biljana Plavsic as Bosnian Serb president.

Officials had promised preliminary results for Tuesday and final tallies yesterday.

But technical problems forced the results to be postponed for at least another day, said Nicole Szulc, spokeswoman for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is overseeing the elections.

Slovaks gear up for vote in crucial election

BRATISLAVA (Reuters) — Slovaks go to the polls today in an election which opinion polls suggest the combined opposition will win.

The Slovak political scene is one of the most polarized in central and eastern Europe, and the former communist country has so far been ruled out of contention for European Union and NATO membership amid accusations that the government's style is undemocratic.

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and his family to Jerusalem
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by the Jerusalem Municipality of
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in appreciation of his outstanding
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Dangerous unilateralism

Judging from his determination to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state in May 1999, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat seems bent on following David Ben-Gurion's example, whereby Israel's independence was declared before it was known what the borders of the new state would be. A major difference is that Ben-Gurion wanted to avoid a war of independence and could not; while Arafat is being offered independence without war and is refusing.

Unless the United States talks him out of it at the last minute, at the UN next week Arafat is expected to take another step toward declaring Palestinian independence when the Oslo Accord's five-year interim period runs out next May. The immediate impact of such a statement would be to reveal Arafat's disinterest in the redeployment package that has been under negotiation since January. Arafat evidently would rather prolong the current stalemate until May, even though Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's demands for modifications of the US-proposed package have dropped like autumn leaves, all to entice Arafat into accepting control over an area 13 times the size of Tel Aviv.

Why, one might ask, is Arafat refusing territory in the hand just to paint a more somber backdrop behind his declaration of independence? The explanation being offered is that Arafat does not believe that Israel will carry out the withdrawal, which will be conditional upon Palestinian compliance with its unfulfilled commitments. Or perhaps, it is suggested, Arafat has lost faith that the process will lead to Palestinian statehood, and feels he risks nothing in throwing the peace process to the winds.

Both of these explanations, however, are not credible. All Arafat would have to do to ensure irresistible pressure on Israel to comply with a redeployment agreement would be to exhibit a credible level of cooperation in the fight against terrorism, and some movement toward complying with other commitments made in Oslo, reiterated in the Hebron Accords, and promised once again in the agreement under discussion.

Regarding the more general Palestinian distrust as to where the process is headed, it is only fair to point out that that distrust is mutual, with more justification on the Israeli side. Far from doubting that the process will lead to statehood, the Palestinians have taken this fact for granted — so much so that even reckless abandonment of the process is not seen to risk derailing the train towards statehood.

Though five years ago, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin did not believe that Israelis were ready to both accept Yasser Arafat as a negotiating partner and hand him statehood, the end result of the agreement was understood by all the parties. The classic answer on the Right to what comes after the "autonomy" envisioned by Menachem Begin in the Camp David Accords — "more autonomy" — could not be said with a straight face five years ago, and certainly not today. Even Ariel Sharon has said that a Palestinian state is already practically a fait accompli.

Statehood is no longer a matter of if, but of when, and on what terms. In this context, the most reasonable explanation for Arafat unilaterally declaring statehood now or eight months from now, is that he believes that those terms can be improved by abandoning the negotiations process.

In fact, there is no reason to believe that the Palestinians will achieve more by fiat than through negotiations. In the tarmest unilateral statehood scenario, the Palestinians would not physically challenge Israeli control over the 73 percent of the West Bank that is currently Oslo's "Area C," but would deepen their control over Areas A and B, where over 95 percent of Palestinians live. A descent into total unilateralism is also possible, and risks a violent scramble for territory. At a minimum, the tension and potential for deliberate or inadvertent violent outbreaks would greatly increase.

For once on the Israeli side, voices are united in urging Arafat not to unilaterally declare statehood. From the podium at the United Nations yesterday, Netanyahu said: "Such actions will inevitably prompt unilateral responses on our part and this development will not be good for the Palestinians, not good for Israel, not good for peace." Labor Party leader Ehud Barak called Arafat to deliver the same message, and Oslo architect MK Yossi Beilin said that such a unilateral step would be a grave violation of the accord.

In 1862, Prussian general Otto von Bismarck declared that, "The great questions of the day will not be settled by means of speeches and majority decisions ... but by iron and blood." Arafat's determination to unilaterally declare statehood, rather than see the negotiating process through to the same conclusion, is a throwback to this dismal philosophy. The voices of Europeans and other peace-loving states should join the United States and Israelis from across the political spectrum in persuading Palestinians to stay on the negotiated path.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GRATEFUL TO MEDIOWORKS

Sir, — Larry Derfner's conclusions and the opinions of Helen Har-Tal in "Anglo prospects" (September 18) about the difficulty of finding jobs as a technical writer are just the opposite of my experience and that of a number of my friends.

The first of our group in the absorption center took a course in technical writing did have a technical background, but was in his fifties. He got a job and was the inspiration for another of my friends to take the same course. My second friend had no technical background and was in his late thirties. He got a job right out of school as well, and is now in management.

After my two friends found work, I took the Medioworks course that was offered in Jerusalem and I also found work. I had no technical background and I was in my late forties when I finished the course. It was hard for me to find a first job, but after getting my first position, I have been employed in the field ever since.

Not everyone can become a technical writer, but if you start with good communication skills, know English grammar well and are serious about learning a new skill, I believe that you can get a job after taking one of the technical writing courses.

If you have any technical training, it should be easier to get a first job. With a year or two experience in the field, finding a job is easier still. If you were not able to write clearly before, a technical writing course will make you a good writer, but taking a technical writing course will teach you how to do technical writing which is a specialty for a specific niche in the high tech marketplace.

The course is expensive, but in the first month after finding a job. I recouped the cost of the course and, in fact, stated earning double what I had been earning in the other jobs I had had since coming to Israel.

Considering that training for my previous profession took eight years of post high school training before I was able to find an entry level job in that profession, I think that a one summer course is an excellent investment in retraining for the needs of the Israeli job market.

I will always be grateful to Medioworks for enabling me to train in a profession that has made living in Israel possible.

ASHER REICHERT

Jerusalem.

THE THIRD TEMPLE

Sir, — In the weekly *Newsweek* Channel-1 (September 18), we saw a report on a conference in Jerusalem advocating construction of the Third Temple. Attended by several hundred delegates. Above all, it was addressed (through video recording) by the deputy minister of education, Moshe Peled, who gave the meeting "his blessing."

Thirty years ago an Australian, Michael Rohan, attempted to set fire to Al Aksa mosque. His act was universally condemned, the court treated him as criminally insane and the Israeli government vehemently condemned this act, distanced itself from its perpetrator and utterly refuted the charge of Moslem leaders that Rohan had acted with encouragement from the Israeli establishment.

The prime minister should dissociate the government from this mad scheme concerning the Third Temple and promptly dismiss the deputy minister who endorsed it.

Otherwise, we may conclude that he too backs it, and that the lunatic fringe of yesterday has moved to center stage.

MIRIAM SHIMONI

Tel Aviv.

NO MORE STAR CHAMBERS

front of the whole world. At this juncture, when the peace process here in Israel is virtually non-existent, when Russia is on the brink of internal disaster, when Iran is on the verge of war with its neighbor and when Northern Ireland's peace is shaky, the world

needs to look up to a strong president heading the most powerful nation in the world.

Let's have no more Star Chambers.

JENNY WEILL

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

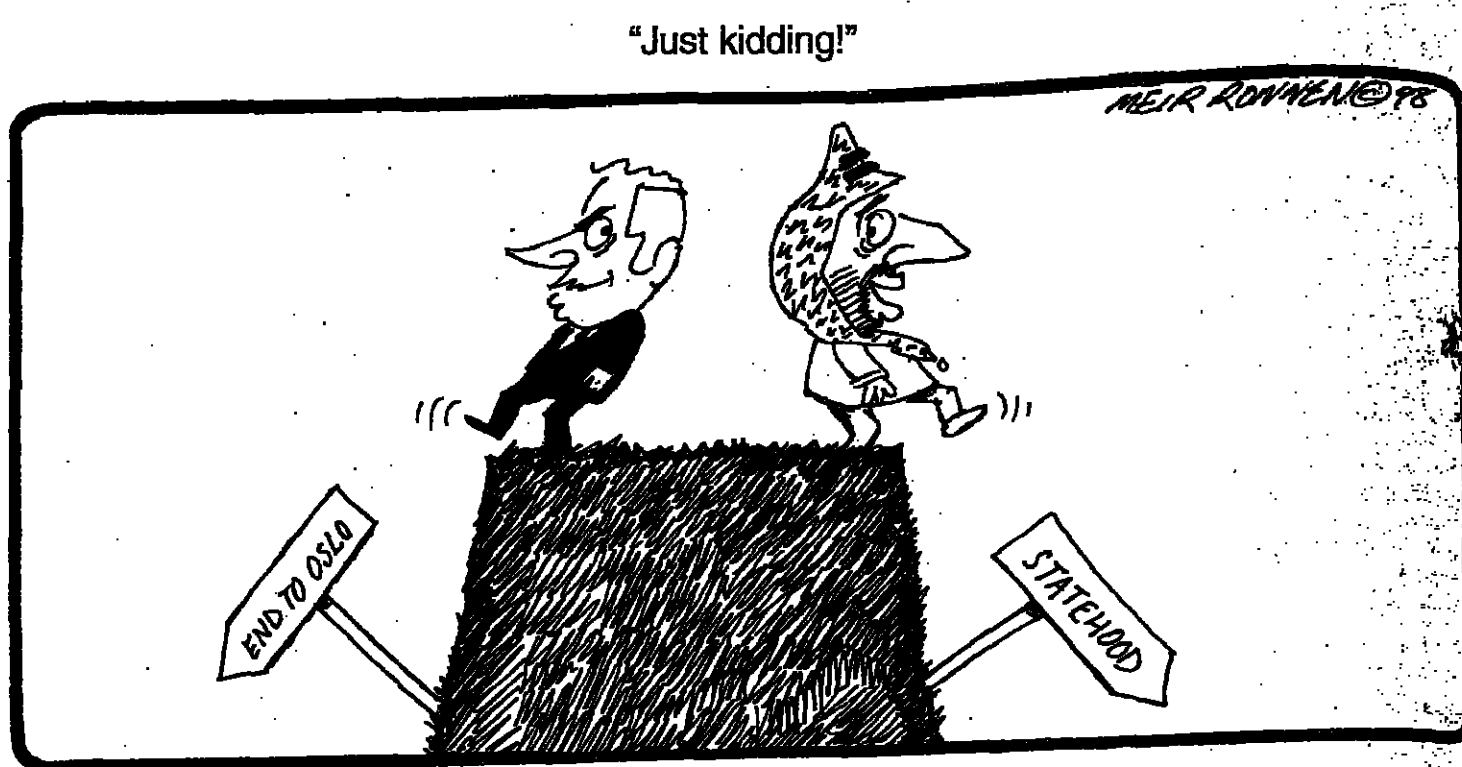
65 years ago: On September 25, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported the statement made by Sir Mark Young at the 23rd meeting of the Mandates Commission, according to which Transjordan was excluded from the Articles of the Mandate relating to the establishment of the Jewish National

Home in Palestine. The Jewish Agency protested, claiming that the British Government's refusal to settle Jews in Transjordan violated the spirit of the Balfour Declaration and of the Weizmann-Faisal agreement.

25 years ago: On September 25, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post*

reported that a quarter of a million of Israelis who left the country since 1948 had still not returned — the average of 10,000 a year had been consistently maintained ever since the establishment of the State.

Alexander Zvielli



Anarchy at the gate

MOSHE ARENS

The Israeli public has plenty to worry about nowadays. Warnings of acts of terror by Hamas, the threat of impending Palestinian violence if all their demands are not met, the danger of ballistic missile and non-conventional warhead acquisition by Iraq and Iran, growing unemployment at home in an economy that seems to be stagnating.

As if that were not enough, we have to worry about the state of the world, as economic crises spread while the American presidency is being weakened. This obviously requires that we at home have a steady hand at the wheel — a stable government capable of formulating and executing a coherent domestic, foreign, and defense policy while resisting pressure from single-issue groups.

An early election law, after having passed its preliminary reading, is now in the Knesset Law Committee and is likely to come to a vote when the Knesset returns from its summer recess. If the opposition is joined by some of the smaller coalition factions who are using the threat of supporting early elections to influence government policy, the law may pass the additional three readings.

Alternately, our prime minister may decide that this is as good a time as any to go to elections. And, ready or not, an election campaign will be upon us.

Eventually, a new government will take the helm, but it will most likely be even more unstable and

more subject to pressures from its coalition partners than the present one. As a matter of fact, the political scene is liable to degenerate into anarchy. That is, unless we first revoke the law for the direct election of the prime minister.

By now it should be clear to all, even to those daredevils who invented the two-ballot hybrid system, unknown anywhere in the world, and succeeded in imposing

increased strength of the small parties has forced the Likud into a coalition in which its coalition partners constitute a majority. The result is frequent government crises, the munificent handouts from the government budget to Shas and the other religious parties, the talk of passing the conversion bill, whose very essence favors single-issue party and minority constituency representa-

We are fast approaching our last chance to revoke the law for the direct election of the prime minister

this experiment on Israel by a one-vote majority.

The two-ballot system of elections when applied to a parliamentary system of government strengthens the smaller single-issue and special-interest parties at the expense of the two large parties. This is what happened in the last elections, the first under the direct election of the prime minister law, and we shall see a continuation of this trend if another election is held according to the same system.

LIKUD and Labor have been so weakened that for the first time in our history the two large parties together do not constitute a majority in the Knesset. In addition, the

hole in the head, but the two-ballot system offers an irresistible temptation.

During the election the candidates of the two large parties will be pleading for the public's vote for themselves and not for their party, encouraging the voters to vote for the special interest group closest to their hearts. If, God forbid, there is going to be a second round in the race for prime minister, the wheeling and dealing is bound to exceed our wildest imagination.

The Knesset will be made up of a melange of small and medium-sized parties, most of them having by now outgrown the possibility of being excluded from representation by an increase in the minimum threshold required for representation, and collectively sufficiently strong to prevent any move to return to parliamentary democracy. Political anarchy will take the reins of power.

There is a chance to avoid this scary scenario. A bill to revoke the direct election of the prime minister law, proposed by MKs Yossi Beilin (Labor) and Uzi Landau (Likud), passed its preliminary reading in the Knesset before the law calling for early elections. It, together with the early election bill, is currently in the Law Committee. If it is given precedence, and then receives the support of at least 61 MKs, the next elections, whenever they are held, will not be held according to the destructive two-ballot system. Last chance.

Claudia should have come

MARK A. HELLER

There are some news stories, like the proceedings of the Starr Chamber in Washington or the second redeployment, that seem to go on forever. And there are other stories that have "no legs"; they attract some fleeting attention but are soon forgotten.

The Oasis Casino in Jericho falls into the second category. Despite the universal fascination with the latest trials and tribulations of the American president, its opening last week made headlines and provided lead stories in media all around the world.

Since then, the casino has settled into routine operations, reportedly hosting about 20,000 Israelis over the extended Rosh Hashana weekend — and been relegated to the back page by the arbiters of the public agenda. But for a day or two, the story attracted an unusual amount of local and international attention.

Perhaps the reason was the bizarre setting: There are a lot of casinos around the world, but very few brass and marble palaces literally a stone's throw from a refugee camp.

Or maybe it was just trickle-down celebrity: Claudia Schiffer was supposed to grace the inauguration ceremony with her presence, and her last-minute cancellation was worth almost as much, in terms of publicity, as would have been Claudia Schiffer in the flesh.

Still, there was another dimension to the casino that helps explain its notoriety. After all, Jericho is not Monte Carlo, and the Oasis Casino is not just another

glitzy pleasure dome; it is also a cultural contradiction, a political irony, and an economic institution, and if Claudia Schiffer had a more developed sense of history, nothing would have kept her away.

Like casinos in other Moslem countries, the Oasis is closed to the locals. Palestinians need the jobs the casino will generate and the easy money it will bring in, but to accommodate the sensitivities of local religious circles, the Palestinian Authority has decreed

man's terms, it is a glitzy mechanism for Israeli economic aid to the Palestinian Authority.

ALL IN ALL, this is a good thing. If one accepts the theory that economic misery encourages radicalism and instability, then Israel has a vested interest in promoting Palestinian prosperity.

In fact, the casino may well become the most concrete manifestation of the economic cooperation envisaged in the Declaration

Adam Smith would surely feel vindicated if he could spend a day or two at the Oasis

that guests will be admitted only on presentation of a foreign passport or identity card.

Egypt does the same, as did Turkey before a secular government closed down the casinos completely. But in the Palestinian case, the casino will cater almost exclusively to Israelis who cannot gamble in their own country: largely out of deference to the sensitivities of its religious circles, Israel forbids the operation of casinos in its own territory.

Thus, by matching surplus Israeli capital (never mind the recession and the budget and balance-of-payments deficits) and surplus Palestinian manpower, the casino represents an almost perfect example of what economists call "complementarities." In lay-

of Principles and the Paris agreements. Of course, it's not that lofty vision that will inspire most of the Israeli high rollers trucking down to Jericho, but that's the beauty of "the Invisible Hand," and Adam Smith would surely feel vindicated if he could spend a day or two at the Oasis.

There, Israel will make its contribution to regional peace without touching the public purse; all the money recycled by the casino into the Palestinian economy and Yasser Arafat's treasury will come from the pockets of private Israelis, some of whom may even be Likud voters.

So almost everybody gains: the local Palestinians workers, suppliers and contractors who will benefit directly from the casino's operations; the Palestinian mer-

chants who will enjoy the trickle-down effect; the PA which can boost its revenues without sending collection agents to persuade a single reluctant taxpayer; Israeli security services who can expect more cooperation from the Palestinian security services in preventing the kind of terrorist acts that could kill the goose that lays the golden egg; the Israel Police which can hope for a decline in illegal gambling operations in Israel; and Benjamin Netanyahu and other apostles of privatization who can point to the results of the gospel of Adam Smith.

The list of beneficiaries may even include Greece. After all, with a casino so close at hand, fewer Israeli gamblers will hop off on junkets to northern Cyprus, where the Turkish casinos have resumed operations.

But even though market economics is a positive-sum game, some people are adversely affected by any new development. In the case of the Oasis Casino, the losers include the Turkish Cypriots and the wives of the Israeli jet-setters who can now spend less time away from home. A negative impact may also be felt in Egypt, whose casinos will probably attract fewer Israeli customers. Of course, Egyptians other than casino operators will see this as a mixed blessing.

Thus, the casino is almost certainly not the kind of bad Israeli-Palestinian deal that Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa insisted was worse than no deal at all. He must have had something else in mind.

POSTSCRIPTS

HARLEY IS born to ride. The Siberian husky has yet to convince Los Angeles police of that, however.

A judge dismissed a citation against Jeremiah Gerbracht for allowing his dog to ride on his Harley-Davidson. The 23-kilo dog sits on the gas tank, which has been modified and covered with leather to protect his paws.

Harley is licensed as a hearing dog, said Gerbracht, who is hearing-impaired. That allows him to take Harley practically everywhere, from restaurants to movie theaters. It wasn't clear whether that extends to motorcycle rides.

The latest citation was dismissed when the officer who wrote the ticket failed to appear in court, said Robert Marcus, Gerbracht's lawyer. It was the third time in as many years that Gerbracht has beaten a ticket for having a dog on the hog.

"We won," Marcus said. "Apparently the dogged pursuit of my client in an attempt to collar him has come to an end. Maybe now they'll stop hounding him," he said, speaking strange legalese.

But his optimism was premature. Gerbracht got another ticket as he and Harley pulled into the courthouse parking lot.

CHARGING \$185 for satin shorts may seem a little steep, especially when they aren't much bigger than a postage stamp.

But nothing's too good for Barbie.

The National Barbie Doll Convention in Atlanta was described as the greatest accumulation of Barbie collectibles in the world by *Miller's Fashion Doll* magazine.

The shorts-seller, Mary Kay Mouton, got into the Barbie craze as a child. She painstakingly saved all her Barbie paraphernalia, only to see her mother give it all away. She recouped some of her losses with a Barbie quilt she made that

Mattel offered to buy for \$9,000.

Doll prices at the convention ranged from \$2 — for a McDonald's Happy Meal Barbie — to \$14,000 for an original Barbie in her striped black and white swimsuit.

Biker Barbie came clad in leather and chains. Another doll was dressed as Jane Fonda as she appeared in the science fiction film *Barbarella*. And countless others sported satin, velvet, chiffon, tulle, feathers, dripping sequins and Swarovski crystals.

The convention also featured workshops on topics such as how to renege a Barbie that has been loved to a state of baldness.

A new era for adoptions

ELIEZER D. JAFFE

Until 1996, Israeli adoption law gave total responsibility for adoption services to the government. Originally lodged in the Adoption Service of the Ministry of Welfare (now the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs), this social work service placed thousands of homeless and neglected children with childless couples yearning to be parents. It also oversaw the adoption of large numbers of children by relatives, the second-largest source of

parent children declared available for adoption by the courts. Meanwhile, with only an average of 70 babies available each year for non-relative adoptions, thousands of couples decided not to wait for over six years on the ministry's waiting list or face the restrictive eligibility criteria and screening procedures. Instead, they went abroad to various underdeveloped countries to seek a child privately. Unofficial figures point to over

The adoption law has been changed to allow professional, government licensed, nonprofit organizations to handle intercountry adoptions

Israeli adoptive parents.

In the early years of the state, there were more children "available" for adoption than couples wanting to adopt. For many years following the mass immigration from Middle Eastern countries, most of the adopted children were of Sephardi origin, while most of the adopting couples were Ashkenazim. However, as the population and the number of couples seeking to adopt increased, the number of children available for adoption significantly decreased.

Unfortunately, the ministry's adoption social workers and the political hierarchy did not understand that the future direction of modern adoption services is tied to intercountry adoptions and a partnership between "sending" and "receiving" countries. Unlike most other Western nations, the ministry entered into a period of tightening criteria for adopting and avoiding serious involvement in developing the intercountry adoption option. It even changed its name to "The Service for the (Israeli) Child."

It did, however, develop adoption services for mentally and physically handicapped and "older" Israeli children, and tried less successfully to increase the number of institutionalized depen-

10,000 private foreign adoptions. Unfortunately, unrestricted and unsupervised private adoptions also led to illegal activity, racketeering, exploitation and even imprisonment of many Israeli couples abroad.

As a teacher and researcher (and former adoption social worker in the US) of child welfare policy and practice, I was convinced that there was a need to change the adoption law to allow professional, government-licensed, nonprofit organizations to do intercountry adoptions. Thus began a 10-year effort to educate MKs and induce them to introduce private legislation.

The 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoptions was very helpful in making the case for the acceptance of nonprofit organizations in international adoption work. Legislation patterned on the Hague Convention was finally introduced by MKs Anat Maor and Limor Livnat in 1994.

Then-minister of labor and social affairs Ora Namiar gave her blessing, overruling most of her social work staff's opposition to losing their historical monopoly over adoption. The law was then expertly refined in the Knesset Law



Committee and unanimously passed into law in May, 1996.

After great delay by the ministry, a draft of the bylaws necessary for licensing nonprofit adoptions agencies was finally submitted to the Law Committee for discussion in late 1997, and approved for implementation as of January 1, 1998.

THE ESSENCE of the new law is that licensed, professional nonprofit groups can provide all the services necessary regarding intercountry adoptions. Adoption of Israeli children still remains in the hands of the ministry. A licensing committee reviews applications from interested nonprofit associations and decides if they meet the criteria.

A maximum agency fee of \$20,000 was approved for intercountry adoption work, and there are clear requirements regarding board members, professional staff, capital, evaluation of applicants, relationship and recognition from

sending countries, government supervision and accountability.

By design, there is nothing in the adoption law that relates to conversion, and this is left strictly to the adopting couple to decide, after the adoption.

The new situation has many implications for expanding the relationship between government and the nonprofit sector, for innovation in adoption services, intercountry social work cooperation, private philanthropy, research and training, and future social legislation.

Most of all, this is a time for joy for thousands of Israelis, present and future, for abandoned children abroad in search of homes, and for the social work profession.

The transfer of intercountry adoption work to the nonprofit sector represents a significant policy shift by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Plans are underway to contract out foster care services as well, and thus end the poor record of fol-

low-up and service to children in foster homes. Contracting out has already been used successfully by the Ministry's Rehabilitation Division for several years.

The essence of these changes is that the ministry retains responsibility for standards, licensing and supervision, while purchasing services for welfare clients from nonprofit associations. I believe that this is a step in the right direction, so long as the ministry does not hold back funding from the contractors. It will be up to the public and the media to serve as watchdogs over this process.

I hope that the decentralization of adoption work will lead the way to many other partnerships between the ministry and the nonprofit sector, and to great innovations in social work practice.

The writer is a professor at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work of the Hebrew University.

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

Man of the year

Our man of the year 5758 is neither a Machiavellian politician whose hunger for a following has made him do this or that, nor a bespectacled scholar who has shed some more light on God's creation, nor an inspiring artist who shrewdly tapped into our available income.

Our man of the year is also not a resourceful high-tech engineer, nor a visionary start-up entrepreneur, nor even a mystic craving for our collective repentance.

In fact our man of the year is — or was — a scarcely known, nobly

in their ancestral land. In his death, Nikolai also defied the old Evil Empire's Jewish fixation.

The closure of Krasnodar's synagogue followed the great anti-Jewish backlash that followed Golda Meir's memorable appearance, 50 years ago these Days of Awe, in Moscow's great synagogue, attended by some 50,000 excited Jews.

Back then, a politically alarmed and mentally paranoid Stalin clamped down on the Jewish intelligentsia and even began planning

Like Ruth after Naomi, Nikolai followed his impoverished, gaunt, bent-backed father to a shack in a Tel Aviv slum

humble, and tragically under-achieved soldier whose promising life lasted hardly two decades. Nikolai Rappaport was not a Rambo-type hero, but this Zionist — born, killed, and buried in three different polities, all light years apart from the Promised Land he so coveted yet so sadly failed to inhabit — has lent new meaning to patriotism and defied a host of unlikely bedfellows, from time-less antisemitism to religious obscurantism and post-Zionist nihilism.

Wedged between the Black and Azov seas in southern Russia, Nikolai's native Krasnodar was beyond the czars' Pale of Settlement, and as such had hosted no Jewish community until the 1917 revolution. The handful of Jews who ultimately migrated there never exceeded a few thousand, but still comprised enough of a critical mass to experience 20th-century antisemitism's ultimate one-two punch: First, physical dismemberment by the Nazis, then spiritual mutilation by the Soviets, who several years after the establishment of the Jewish state shut down the town synagogue.

The Nazis, in fact, dragged a gas wagon all the way to this remote locality, where some 7,000 people, mostly Jews, were put to death in 1942. After its liberation the following year, the town and its massacre became famous across Russia because the Soviets tried and executed there a few saboteurs; whose chilling testimonies of the gas wagon's operation, the *dushagubka*, or "soul-killer," as they called it — were widely publicized by Stalin's propaganda machine.

Many, at the time, doubted the authenticity of the accounts, but they were accurate. Jewish souls went even cheaper than Russian ones in Krasnodar, back then.

SURELY, the last thing the Jewish victims, German perpetrators, and Russian witnesses of the Krasnodar massacre could believe was that a mere three generations later a group of modernly armed, well-trained, and universally admired Jewish soldiers would arrive at that very place to pay last respects to a comrade-in-arms who fell in Lebanon while defending the state the Jews would build

a mass deportation of all USSR Jews to Siberia, claiming the Jews intended to establish an independent state in the Crimea.

Now, as he returned to Krasnodar — which, incidentally, lies just to the east of the Crimean peninsula — Nikolai's native USSR, along with Stalin's heritage of state-sponsored atheism, had vanished and given way to a host of national and religious revival movements.

AND YET, Nikolai's own Jewishness remained, to his very death, as enigmatic as the rest of his biography.

Born to a Christian mother and a Jewish father, he clung onto the Jewish traditions of his multinational ancestry, not out of fate, but out of choice.

Like Ruth after Naomi, Nikolai followed his impoverished, gaunt, bent-backed father to a shack in a Tel Aviv slum, not even hinting to his commanders in the Givati infantry brigade about the conditions to which he'd return while on leave.

Watching Nikolai's coffin weep over his only son's father, Middle Israelis couldn't help but notice that even in this day and age of cynicism, greed, and opportunism, the slippery energy which has attracted generations of Jews to this thankless patch of earth has yet to lose its magnetism.

However, as author Eli Amir noted, had Nikolai's family not chosen to bury him where he was born, choosing his burial site would have created a major controversy, since according to Halacha this son of a Christian mother was not Jewish.

But Nikolai Rappaport, the faithful son, soldier, and Zionist, made no trouble even in his untimely death.

Draped in a blue-and-white flag he returned to the very place where the Gestapo's *dushagubka* and Stalin's thought police once tore asunder Jewish souls, bodies, and spirits. Today he no longer speaks, but at dusk, when darkness sets on the forlorn post-communist domain where he ended up in spite of himself, those who listen carefully enough to the winds blowing above his tombstone can hear Nikolai whisper: "If I am not a Jew, who the hell is?"

Back to the old myths

GERALD M. STEINBERG

few thousand Palestinians to join close relatives in Israel.

IN PRACTICAL terms, many Palestinian intellectuals and opinion-leaders have accepted this outline as the only plausible frame-

By repeating the old myths and attempting to lay the blame for the wars and the refugees on Israel, the Palestinians are reinforcing the foundations which sustain hatred and terrorism

work. They recognize that Israel is not going to commit suicide by allowing hundreds of thousands of Arabs to enter its territory. The ability of a future Palestinian state to absorb huge numbers of refugees is also limited, particularly given the absence of economic

development. Thus, in terms of substance, there is broad agreement on a workable solution to the refugee problem.

However, the Palestinians have thrown a monkey wrench into these delicate works. Beyond the substance, they insist that any agreement include Israeli acceptance of blame for the creation of the refugee problem in the first place. And this is one demand that no conceivable Israeli government could accept.

By pressing Israel to agree to the Arab version of history, the Palestinians are undermining the central pillar of the Oslo process. Once the Arabs insist on their myths, Israelis are forced to set the record straight, responding with the details of the violent Arab rejection of the UN partition plan in 1947, and the invasion of the Arab armies in May 1948.

Even the small number of Israeli "post-Zionists" and "new historians" who insist that Israel share some of the blame for the refugee problem have stopped short of distorting history so much as to absolve the Arabs of ultimate responsibility for the conflict and the refugees it created.

If the Palestinians and Arabs insist on going back to the old arguments, they certainly cannot expect that Israelis will roll over

and let them rewrite history. If Israel were to allow this, the basic justification for Zionism and the creation of a modern Jewish state would be undermined.

Clearly, no government could accept an ideology and history that denies its own legitimacy.

So why do the Palestinians insist on violating the agreement to wipe the slate clean and start again? By repeating the old myths and attempting to lay the blame for the wars and the refugees on Israel, the Palestinians are reinforcing the foundations which sustain hatred and terrorism.

If Israel is responsible for the wars and their victims, these "victims" and their emissaries believe that they have the right to exact revenge and right the historical wrong.

This is an argument that the Palestinians cannot win. If they insist on pursuing it, they will continue to undermine the basis for the Oslo process, as well as subsequent efforts to establish mutual understanding and acceptance. The best they can hope for is a new beginning, where problems are solved on a practical basis, and neither side is blamed. For the Israelis who have survived the decades of wars and terrorism, even this is a major concession.

Coming clean at Yom Kippur

This is the season for pangs of conscience — even among journalists — so let me share some of mine.

As a child, I used to love political dramas: Allen Drury novels, *Slattery's People*, a TV drama about an idealistic state legislator, *The Candidate*.

Many of these dramas centered on the following dilemma: A young idealist enters politics to do good. But to do good, he must be elected, and that inevitably involves all sorts of compromises of principle. In the end, the requirement of getting elected comes to justify so many compromises that the original principles are no longer recognizable.

Much of my youth was devoted to thinking about how I would avoid this trap as president. Somewhere along the line, however, I seem to have made a wrong turn and, as an adult, I have never had to confront moral dilemmas of this sort, certainly nothing fit for a sequel to *Profiles in Courage*.

Then suddenly a year and a half ago, this column fell into my lap and I had thrust upon me a bully pulpit with which to defend my community, explain its worldview, correct common misconceptions, and rebut, on commonly accepted logical premises, the attacks

against Torah Jews and Judaism. Above all, I hoped to arouse an interest in Torah Judaism.

Given that *The Jerusalem Post* is unique among Israeli secular papers in offering such a perspective on a regular basis, I assumed (probably unfairly) that retaining this opportunity to do good would depend in part on the my ability to sell papers. And that would require maintaining a lively and provocative style.

My assumptions were seemingly confirmed by the *Post*'s obvious delight in publishing outraged responses to my columns. (At one point, I even asked for a raise on the grounds that I was filling up the Letters to the Editor too, but the editor chose to treat that suggestion as a joke.)

The responses to the column were, I must admit, something of a shock. After a lifetime of successfully fooling at least some of the people some of the time, I wondered how the readers had so quickly discovered my true self — angry, hate-filled, insufferably self-righteous.

Luckily I had been shocked before. Like the first time I saw a big poster proclaiming "Stop the haredim," and realized that it was talking about me. Soon I learned to dismiss the letters as expressions of anger at the *Post* for dar-

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

ing to give space to a viewpoint long considered beyond the pale of respectable opinion in Israel. That attitude was given credence

My column hopes to defend my community, explain its worldview, correct common misconceptions and rebut, on commonly accepted logical premises, the attacks against Torah Jews and Judaism

by the absence of a single letter questioning my facts or attempting to refute my logic, as opposed to spewing invective.

Harder to dismiss, however, were a number of private communications from old friends and acquaintances accusing me of doing a horrible job. In their view, I have failed completely to convey any

sense of the beauty of a Torah lifestyle or the depth of Torah and have needlessly fueled the flames of anti-Orthodox hatred. Some went so far as to suggest that I am the unwitting dupe in a vast conspiracy to discredit Orthodox Jews.

MOST of these correspondents are, like myself, *ba'alei teshuva*, and share with me a desire to convey something of what we have found to all the friends and family with whom we grew up and who have been denied access to their most precious possession: the Torah. If they thought I was failing, that was indeed something to worry about.

Needless to say, I had answers for them too. For one thing, they all live in America, and so are not subjected to a daily barrage of no-holds-barred venom directed at religious Jews and Judaism.

While the urge to give back as good as one gets is hardly noble and ought to be stifled, it is a lot easier for those out of the range of fire.

More to the point, I tried to assure myself that am reaching those still far away from any knowledge of Jewish life. At any given point, I reasoned, 95 percent of people are too inertia bound to seriously consider another view. My task is to reach the 5 percent of truth-seekers, and for them it is

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We entreat you to make a special effort to help this family in these days of awe and for this great mitzva you will be showered with blessings in all your endeavors and will win a place in the Book of the Righteous.

This appeal is being made by Rishon Lezion, Rabbi Mordechai Elyahu and Rabbi Druckman.

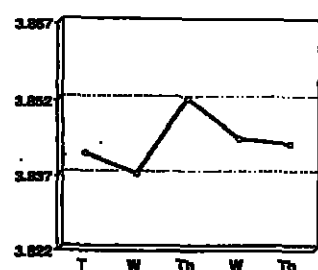
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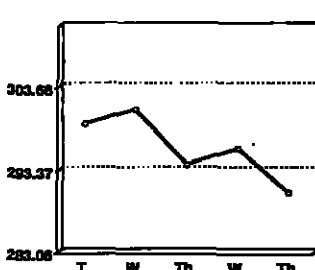
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in brief

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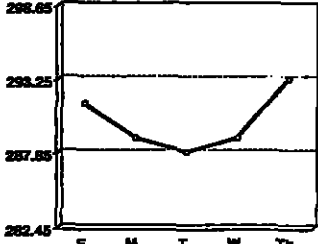


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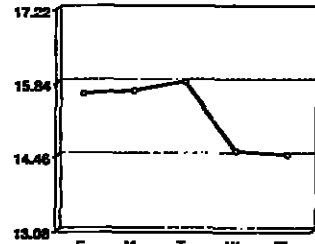
GOLD

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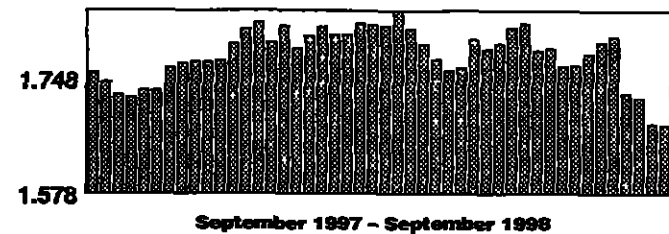


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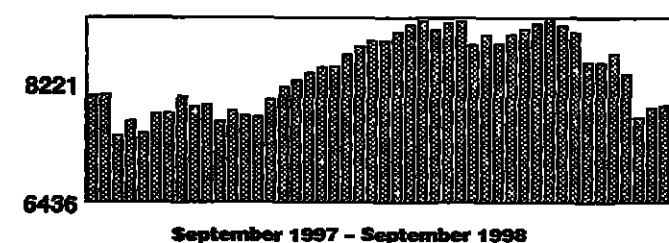
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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BITS AND BYTES

By MARK GOLDBERG

Gilat to supply \$4.25m. system to Zimbabwe

Gilat Communications Ltd. announced it has received a \$4.25 million order for a satellite system to serve external students from the University of Zimbabwe in Harare. The system, Interactive Distance Learning (IDL), is to be provided for the university's College of Distance Education in Harare, which is due to open and will use the system to provide a high level of education to students all over the country. Gilat, based in Petah Tikva, is a maker of satellite-based communications services and has become a leading developer and provider of satellite-based interactive distance learning systems worldwide. The IDL systems allow various academic, training, governmental, and commercial institutions to create and conduct academic courses or employee training to and from remote sites.

ECI receives \$6m. order from China cellular operator

ECI Telecom announced that it has received a \$6 million order for compression equipment and network management systems from China's largest cellular network operator, Guangdong Mobile Communication Company (GMCC).

The Petah Tikva company's QuadCoder 300E will be the first compression solution to be installed in a cellular network in China.

GMCC official Lu Er Rui said the company hopes the ECI Systems will help increase transmission capacity, boost network operation efficiency, and cut costs. ECI said its systems were chosen in order to increase the traffic-carrying capacity of the core of GMCC's GSM networks. The compression system enables compressed voice, fax, and Voice-Band data. Delivery of the equipment is expected to begin in the fourth quarter.

ShellCase, Tower Semiconductor to cooperate

ShellCase, a maker of a packaging process for integrated circuits, recently announced an agreement with Tower Semiconductor Ltd. for the joint development of wafer-level chip scale package solutions for integrated circuit fabrication.

The packaging of integrated circuits is a means of connecting a chip to a printed circuit board, and other elements on the board.

Tower Semiconductor, based in Migdal Ha'emek, manufactures wafers on behalf of its customers, which are used in the production of electronic semiconductors. Established in 1993, the Jerusalem-based ShellCase is a pioneer in CSP technology and went public in 1994.

World business body sets up cyber-crime unit

By ROBERT EVANS

GENEVA (Reuters) - The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the world's leading private business grouping, announced yesterday it is setting up a special unit to help companies around the globe combat cyber crime.

ICC official and crime specialist Eric Ellen told a news conference the unit would also work with Interpol, the international police organization, in fighting crime committed through the Internet.

The new unit, an arm of the Paris-based ICC's Commercial Crime Services, which operates under Ellen from London, would be "a prime source of information, research, and intelligence" on the type of crimes firms could expect.

The move was welcomed at the news conference by Interpol chief Ray Kendall, like Ellen, a former senior British policeman.

Kendall said Interpol had been pushing for years for cooperation with the private sector as technological advances made clear that crimes like money laundering, elec-

tronic fraud, and industrial espionage would boom in the Internet age.

"Frankly, we are not prepared for this explosion," he said.

But the private sector, with funds that could be quickly directed to purchasing equipment that governments take time to authorize, could move much more quickly in response.

Ellen said the new unit - to recruit young experts on computer technology and its use by criminals and fraudsters - was being set up in response to demand from the ICC's thousands of member companies in over 130 countries.

Peter Jenkins, a US consultant, told the news conference a major problem is that it is difficult to establish the exact extent of crime committed through abuse of the Internet and companies' own electronic systems.

In one recent case, two men in St. Petersburg, Russia, broke into the system of a major US bank and transferred funds held by corporate customers worth \$10.5 million to accounts they controlled, ICC officials said.

Leumi offering seen as successful

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The government has raised some NIS 632 million from Tuesday's offering of 16.5 percent of Bank Leumi on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, figures released yesterday indicate.

Analysts said they saw the offering, which was 4.6 times oversubscribed, as a success, particularly considering that due

to current market conditions both locally and worldwide, many share offerings in leading markets are being withheld or canceled.

Shai Talmon, accountant-general at the Finance Ministry, admitted that at a certain point the Treasury was considering a cancellation of the offering because of "difficult market conditions," but when foreign and local investors expressed interest it was

decided to complete the sale.

The success of the offering was assured in advance when foreign institutional investors, including Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, Robert Fleming, and ING Barings, ordered shares worth some \$100m. in advance.

The offering closed 12 percent higher than the offering price, and its overall return may ultimately total as much as NIS

1.37 billion, if all the options sold are exercised.

Meanwhile, the government has also sold 2% of the bank to its workers.

Following the sale the state's stake in the bank has shrunk to 45%.

The Finance Ministry plans to sell the controlling stake in Bank Leumi next year, after completing the planned sale of Israel Discount Bank.

PM seeking deal with EU in PA-trade row

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Israel would likely recognize a trade agreement between the EU and the Palestinian Authority, if the EU withdraws its objections to goods produced in the territories carrying 'made in Israel' labels, a senior source said yesterday.

The source was quoting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from a meeting in New York yesterday with European Union Commission Vice President Manuel Marín.

The offer would be Jerusalem's first admission that it is prepared to accept that Israel and territories beyond the Green Line do not add up to a single customs envelope, as defined in the Paris Accords on economic relations with the PA.

Israel has previously refused to compromise on its view that there could be no customs border along the Green Line.

Acceptance of the PA-EU trade agreement would open the way to far greater three-way trade among Israel, the PA and Europe.

A European official was more guarded about yesterday's meeting. "There was a useful, positive, friendly exchange of views," he said. "The European Union is

encouraged by Netanyahu's positive attitude and hopes to find a solution to the problem."

He added that the commission would continue to try and ease difficulties met by Palestinian businessmen, in line with a directive from the European Council of Ministers.

Last December European officials accused Israel of breaching a trade agreement with Brussels by exporting tax-free to the EU goods produced jointly in Israel and the territories. According to the agreement, only goods manufactured entirely in Israel qualify for reduced tariffs.

In May, the EU condemned Jerusalem for marketing goods from the territories as being made in Israel.

Netanyahu then warned Brussels against "the use of ultimatums and dictates of any kind." He had also threatened that Palestinian workers would pay the price of any EU policy shift.

Throughout this dispute, Brussels has maintained it is keen to allow jointly produced goods to receive duty-free status, but only if Israel relaxes its position on independent Palestinian imports and exports and the PA's trade relations with Europe.

Treasury fails to end computer-team strike

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Thousands of taxpayers will not receive their income tax refunds in the near future, after the Treasury yesterday failed to end a strike of its Sha'am computer-processing service.

The team of 200 - 300 workers has been in dispute with the Finance Ministry over pay and conditions for the past two years.

Yesterday, the Treasury asked the National Labor Court to issue a restraining order to end the strike, which is in its sixth week.

However, after a lengthy discussion the judge decided the parties should reconvene on October 13. However, the Income Tax Commission said there is still a possibility the hearing will resume on Monday.

"We're calling on them to immediately return to work," said Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's spokesman, Moti Sherf. "They are damaging the interests of thousands of citizens in their homes and businesses."

A spokesman for the workers said they will continue to strike until they receive improved terms of employment.

However, some of those directly affected by non-payment of returns were less-than-sympathetic.

"I can't tell you how much the backlog will cost us, because we've got no computers to work it out," said a commission spokeswoman.

Outstanding income tax returns alone are estimated at NIS 500 million, with other payments also having to be added to the total including property improvement tax (*mas shevachi*).

One English-speaking Jerusalem resident waiting for two months for a tax refund said it is "disgusting" that the Income Tax Commission cannot function properly because of the strike.

"How can one group hold the entire country to ransom?" he asked.

Another Jerusalemite said she is owed some NIS 10,000 and has been waiting for payment since July, when she was told she would receive the money within 25 days.

Last year the workers staged a long strike, causing a large backlog in payments.

The commission's own staff also struck last year as their employer attempted to cut the workforce.

The November agreement between the sides allowed for a reduction of the workforce by 360 over the next five years but mainly through natural attrition.

The Treasury is in the process of reforming the commission, including computerization and professional training of staff.

Were you prepared for the current market correction?

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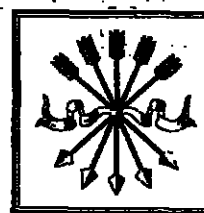
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Al-Ban Bond A	108	0
Al-Ban Bond B	97.5	0
Al-Ban Warrant	535	-0.7
Al-Ban	219	0
Al-Ban	455	0
Al-Ban Bond A	258	0
Al-Ban Bond B	200	-0.5
Al-Ban Warrant 1	61.8	0
Al-Ban Warrant 2	280	0
Al-Ban Warrant 3	1472	0.2
Al-Ban Warrant 4	100	0
Al-Ban Warrant 5	100	0
Al-Ban Warrant 6	100	0
Al-Ban Warrant 7	100	0
Al-Ban Warrant 8	100	0
Al-Ban Warrant 9	100	0
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Al-Ban Warrant 100	100	0

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tu Tours	690	0
tu Zurich	28	0
uma	190	0
uys	2555	0.2
uys	272	0
ust Bond A	183	0
u	3430	0
us Bond 1	173	0
u	790	-1.3
u	120	0
u	200	1.7
us Bond A	94	0
us Warrent 2	32	0
us Warrent 3	162	0
us Warrent 4	197	0
us Warrent 5	107	0
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US stocks plunge 1.9%

LAST	CHANGE
Tesco	-1.1875
British Airways	-2.0625
British Telecom	-2.0625
British Petroleum	-1.1875
British Airways	-2.0625
British Telecom	-2.0625
British Petroleum	-1.1875
British Airways	-2.0625
British Telecom	-2.0625
British Petroleum	-1.1875

LAST	CHANGE
Wall Street	-1.9%
Dow Jones	-1.9%
S&P 500	-1.9%
Nasdaq	-1.9%
NYSE	-1.9%
AMEX	-1.9%
NYSE	-1.9%
AMEX	-1.9%
NYSE	-1.9%
AMEX	-1.9%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES	LAST	CHANGE
DJ Industrial	2901.90	-18.42
DJ Transport	2631.24	-22.85
DJ Utility	245.25	-1.45
DJ Comp	2597.01	-1.48
DJ Energy	240.54	-1.28
DJ Health	251.59	-1.36
DJ Tech	250.72	-2.37
DJ Tel	250.72	-2.37

OTHER MARKET INDEXES	LAST	CHANGE
FTSE 100	5167.6	-31.0
Nikkei 225	14205.78	+3.02%
DAX	3381.15	-1.0
IBEX	3167.0	-1.0
ASX	3167.0	-1.0

DOLLAR CROSSEXCHANGES (US)	LAST	CHANGE
British Pound	1.6325	-0.0004
Japanese Yen	109.35	-0.0005
Swiss Franc	1.4850	-0.0005
German Mark	1.3660	-0.0005
French Franc	6.5455	-0.0005
Italian Lira	2036.0	-0.0005
Spanish Peseta	166.64	-0.0005

US COMMODITIES	LAST	CHANGE
Crude Oil	29.93	+0.05
Gold	384.3	+0.03
Silver	4.1795	+0.19%
Natural Gas	2.2916	+0.97%
Heating Oil	6.6485	+0.57%

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)	LAST	CHANGE
Copper	0.95	-0.0005
Aluminum	0.35	-0.0005
Zinc	0.85	-0.0005
Nickel	0.95	-0.0005
Lead	0.45	-0.0005

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES	LAST	CHANGE
Gold	384.3	+0.03
Silver	4.1795	+0.19%
Natural Gas	2.2916	+0.97%
Heating Oil	6.6485	+0.57%

LONDON METAL FIXES	LAST	CHANGE
Gold	384.3	+0.03
Silver	4.1795	+0.19%
Natural Gas	2.2916	+0.97%
Heating Oil	6.6485	+0.57%

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS	LAST	CHANGE
Shekel	1.80	-0.01
US Dollar	1.80	-0.01
British Pound	1.80	-0.01
Japanese Yen	1.80	-0.01

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS	LAST	CHANGE
Shekel	1.80	-0.01
US Dollar	1.80	-0.01
British Pound	1.80	-0.01
Japanese Yen	1.80	-0.01

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS	LAST	CHANGE
Shekel	1.80	-0.01
US Dollar	1.80	-0.01
British Pound	1.80	-0.01
Japanese Yen	1.80	-0.01

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS	LAST	CHANGE
Shekel	1.80	-0.01
US Dollar	1.80	-0.01
British Pound	1.80	-0.01
Japanese Yen	1.80	-0.01

Wall Street

Stocks fell sharply yesterday, giving back more than half of Wednesday's big gain, as some traders chose not to wait until Tuesday to see if the Federal Reserve comes through with an expected cut in interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished 152.42 points - or by 1.9 percent lower - at 8,001.99 after nearly surrendering all of Wednesday's 257-point surge with an afternoon slide of 218.

Broader stock indicators also suffered heavy losses as portfolio managers, facing the imminent close to a bruising quarter, tried to protect some of Wednesday's unexpected bounty.

"That was a wake-up call, unfortunately, this morning," Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co., said of the bailout of Long-Term Capital Management.

"It took some of the euphoria out of the monetary policy easing in the near-term out of the market."

Yesterday's downturn left the Dow less than 100 points above this year's break-even point and more than 1,300 points below its July peak of 9,337.97.

On Wednesday, the Dow rose to its highest level in a month as Fed chairman Alan Greenspan gave the clearest signal yet that the central bank will cut interest rates to combat a widening economic crisis overseas.

Greenspan assured a Senate panel that Fed officials recognize the need to act quickly in containing the financial turmoil, heightening expectations that the Fed will lower its key lending rates at next week's strategy meeting.

The Fed chief said no decision would be made until that meeting, but also stressed that "I think we know where we have to go."

The dollar rose against the yen for a fifth day after Japanese opposition parties rejected a government plan to fix the debt-ridden bank, system, sparking speculation the country's recession may linger.

Passage of the banking legislation is seen as a key step toward pulling Japan's economy out of its worst recession since the end of World War II.

Japanese banks, with an estimated 77 trillion yen (\$566 billion) in problem loans, are reluctant to lend, making it difficult for businesses to expand.

"The Japanese bank proposals aren't going anywhere," said Jan Erik Wærneryd, chief proprietary trader at Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken, who predicts the dollar could rise as high as 145 yen in the next few weeks. As a result, "the dollar looks attractive here."

The dollar rose to 135.92 yen from 135.58 late Wednesday, and is up 3.7 percent since hitting a five-month low September 11.

The US currency was little changed at 1.6773 marks from 1.6788 marks after US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan Wednesday suggested that the central bank may cut interest rates amid signs of slowdown in the US economy. The dollar is down nearly 7% versus the mark in the last month.

"Lower interest rates are pretty well discounted at the moment," said Tony Plummer, who helps oversee about \$5 billion of bonds at Guinness Flight Hambro Asset Management in London.

Traders say there's a good chance the Fed may lower the fed funds target rate from the current 5.50% when it policy-making panel meets on Tuesday.

German officials, meanwhile, have said they won't lower rates. That narrows the interest rate differential in favor of Germany, whose benchmark interest rate is 3.30%.

Traders snapped up dollars, shunning the yen, as Japan's opposition parties shot down compromise bank reform measures by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. The opposition said the plan was inconsistent with their interpretation of the agreement negotiated September 18.

"The Japanese problem isn't likely to be settled easily because of the wide gap between the ruling and opposition parties," said Tetsuhisa Hayashi, a foreign exchange manager at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.

US President Bill Clinton, in a meeting Tuesday with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, tried to get the reform "moving by supporting the use of public money to aid troubled banks. Japan's opposition parties are reluctant to do so."

Greenspan Wednesday said "deteriorating foreign economies" are likely to slow domestic growth enough to contain inflation, signaling the Fed may cut rates soon.

A government report showed the US economy grew at the weakest pace in three years in the second quarter. The Commerce Department said economic growth increased a revised 1.8% annual pace in the second quarter.

"The possibility of lower US interest rates, slower growth and slower consumption is weighing on the dollar in contrast to Europe," said Lisa Finstrom, currency analyst at Salomon Smith Barney Inc.

Lower rates usually stimulate the economy, by making it less expensive for individuals and companies to borrow money. Boosting stocks, they also weaken the dollar, by diminishing the return on dollar-denominated deposits and bonds.

"Greenspan looks set to cut rates next week," said James McKay, the chief European economist and currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia. "Fifty basis points looks to be the likely size. Any less would risk a setback in the equity market."

European rates may even be set to rise. Bundesbank council member Franz Christoph Zeiler said the move towards a unified interest rate for the 11 countries adopting the euro, the European Union's single currency, could fuel inflation and money supply growth in some countries.

US Treasury notes and bills rose for a second day amid optimism the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates next week to ward off a global slowdown.

With expectations growing for a rate cut when Fed officials meet Tuesday, "the flows will be in the front end of the market," the most sensitive to expectations about Fed policy, said George Adell, a trader at Starboard Capital Markets Inc.

The yield on the \$15 billion of two-year notes the Treasury auctioned Wednesday are at 4.45 percent, down 16 basis points since the sale. Three-month bill yields fell 5 basis points to 4.62 percent, a four-year low. US 30-year bonds fell 1/4, or \$2.50 per \$100 bond, to 104 3/4. Yields rose 1 basis point to 5.18 percent.

US notes and bills rallied Wednesday after remarks from Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan fanned expectations a rate cut is

imminent. The central bank has left its target for overnight lending between banks at 5.5 percent since March 1997.

The US economy will likely slow as a result of "deteriorating foreign economies," and that slowdown "will be more than sufficient to hold inflation in check," Greenspan told the Senate Budget Committee. That fueled talk he will push for a rate cut when central bankers meet Tuesday, to ward off a global economic slowdown.

At current levels, all Treasuries yield below the fed funds target, indicating traders see a strong chance of a rate cut. Two-year note yields are more than a percentage point below fed funds.

Also pointing to increased expectations for one or more rate cuts are Eurodollar futures, or dollars on deposit outside the US. The securities are among the most sensitive to changes in Fed rate

in dealing with the crisis, which has spread from Asia to Russia and is now threatening Latin America.

The Standard and Poor's 500 fell 23.37 to 1,042.72, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index fell 39.93 to 1,720.34.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by nearly a 2-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,089 up, 2,042 down and 413 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 799.67 million shares as of 4 p.m., down from 897.56 million at the same point on Wednesday.

The NYSE composite index fell 10.36 to 516.59, and the American Stock Exchange composite index fell 3.78 to 642.30.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 5.75 to 370.25.

Banks were among the hardest-hit issues, with Citicorp down 1/4 to 99 3/4, J.P. Morgan & Co. Inc. off 5/8 to 87 3/16, and Merrill Lynch & Co. off 3/4 to 54, all on the New York Stock Exchange.

Pfizer Inc. rose 15/16 to 107 7/16 after the drug company announced plans to repurchase up to \$5 billion worth of its shares. (News agencies) Local stocks fell yesterday, as the shares in Bank Leumi that had been purchased from the government in a public offering on Wednesday flooded the market.

Maof 290.93 ▼ 1.7%
Dow Jones 8002 ▼ 1.87%
FTSE 5200.5 ▼ 0.27%
Nikkei 14205.78 ▲ 3.02%

as much as 3 percent higher, also influenced the declines here.

"It was a volatile day and any reason people had for negativity they picked up on," said Ira Slomowitz, a trader for Israel Brokerage and Investments.

The government raised more than NIS 600m. Wednesday in its sale of shares and options in Bank Leumi (story Page 10), about 12 percent more than the minimum price set in the public offering of Israel's second-biggest bank.

Some 24 million Bank Leumi shares traded yesterday, compared with an average 3 million in the past three months.

Slomowitz said Leumi's high volume indicated investors who bought the shares Wednesday were selling them yesterday, while holding on to the options in anticipation of a profit when they mature in 13 months.

Leumi's decline sent other banks falling. Bank Hapoalim fell 2.41 percent to NIS 9.32, and Israel Discount Bank fell 3.49 percent to NIS 3.6.

Among other losers, Israel Chemicals Ltd. fell 3.66 percent to NIS 3.69. The manufacturer of fertilizers and other specialty chemical products was downgraded at Lehman Brothers to

STOCKS

UK stocks were mixed, reversing earlier gains, as a fall in profit at Diageo Plc and sliding oil prices, which hurt Shell Transport & Trading Co., overshadowed optimism ahead of the US interest rate cut.

The benchmark FTSE 100 index dropped 13.6 points, or 0.27 percent, to 5200.5. That leaves the index up just 1.26 percent this year, after stocks plunged worldwide in recent weeks on concern a slowing global economy will crimp demand.

"I'm not convinced we've hit the bottom - there is probably another leg down to go," said Mark Flawn-Thomas, a money manager at Chartfield Investment, which has about 100 million pounds (\$168.4 million) under management. "A lot of it depends on what Greenspan does in the States. If they have a rate cut there, that may ease things short-term."

Diageo dropped 21p to 497. The world's largest liquor company said fiscal 1998 earnings per share fell 4.5 percent to 33p as the strength of the pound and problems in Asia hampered trading. Diageo was created in December from the merger of Guinness Plc and Grand Metropolitan Plc.

Also slowing any ascent, Shell lost 10.5p to 360.5 after crude oil fell as much as 1.2 percent as the threat of disruptions to production in the Caribbean from bad weather recedes. Brent crude for November delivery fell as much as 14 cents to \$14.38 on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

The UK's current account moved into a surplus of 600 million pounds in the second quarter, confounding expectations and

Japan's benchmark stock index recorded its steepest rise in three weeks, led by Sony Corp., after a surge by shares on Wall Street bolstered speculation a US interest-rate cut is imminent.

"It's buying by association," said Nobuaki Kurisu, a general manager at Toyo Investment Trust Management Co. "It's not as if lower US rates will affect exporters' bottom line any time soon, but some of the blue chips had been sold rather low and Wall Street provided an easy excuse to go back to them."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 415.97 points, or 3.02 percent, to 14,205.78 - its largest gain since September 7. The Topix index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange climbed 27.84 points, or 2.65 percent, to 1078.01.

Sony soared 740 yen to 9,720. Bridgestone Corp. gained 275 yen to 2,880 and Canon Inc. rose 25 yen to 2,800 after US stocks hit a 12-day high on expectations the Federal Reserve will loosen monetary policy to avert an economic slowdown. Sony's shares had declined more than 11 percent during the previous four sessions.

Banks also rose after Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi Tuesday promised US President Bill Clinton to move quickly to bolster the country's fragile financial system. Gains were limited, however, amid skepticism his Liberal Democratic Party can win over opposition groups to plans to inject public funds into ailing Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd.

When a Clinton comes to his troubles will disagree. Rita C

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COMMODITIES

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BONDS

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These rates vary according to bank. Bank of Israel.

Gold benefits from hedge fund's demise

Precious metals

Gold for December delivery rose as much as \$3.20 an ounce, or 1.1 percent, to \$295.70 an ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Concern about the stability of global financial markets, after one of Wall Street's most famous hedge funds almost failed, could send more investors to the security of gold.

On Wednesday, the US Federal Reserve orchestrated an unprecedented bailout of Long-Term Capital Management LP, which had made leveraged bets in markets around the world.

Analysts said a collapse of Long-Term could have shaken global financial markets and institutions, sending some investors to the security of gold rather than more traditional investments such as bonds.

Crude oil for November delivery fell 13 cents to \$15.68 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil dropped amid expectations that US inventories are declining because of temporary disruptions caused by severe weather in the Gulf of Mexico, rather than an end to a worldwide glut.

US stockpiles fell 9.09 million barrels, or 2.8%, last week, according to the American Petroleum Institute. Hurricane Georges now moving across Cuba

Energy

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Others

Copper for December delivery fell as much as 0.8 cent, or 1.1%, to 74.25 cents a pound on the Comex division for the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Copper fell as the dollar rose against the yen for a fifth day after Japanese opposition parties rejected a government plan to fix the debt-ridden bank system, fanning speculation that the country's recession may linger. That could reduce already weak demand for copper in Japan and Asia further and come at a time when stockpiles of the metals are rising.

Partners Asset Management. The surge in notes pushed the difference in yield, or spread, between short-term Treasuries and longer-term bonds to its widest in more than a year. That spread is now 71 basis points, the widest since August 1997 and more than triple what it was just last month.

In another sign of growing rate cut expectations, Southwest Bancorp of St. Louis said it's cutting the rate at which it lends money to its best customers, the prime rate, to 8 percent from 8 1/2 percent in anticipation of a slower economy.

"The current economic environment around the world will eventually affect the US," said Denny Niedringhaus, a senior vice president at the bank. "The financial markets, especially the credit markets, are signaling that rates should come down."

"Nobody wants to hold anything other than the cleanest piece of paper they can hold and that's bull, benchmark Treasuries," said Michael Mullaney, who manages more than \$1 billion at Boston

the weakest pace in three years in the second quarter, giving the Fed more room to cut rates if necessary, traders said. The Commerce Department said economic growth rose at a revised 1.8 percent annual pace in the second quarter.

Treasury securities rallied in recent months, driving 30-year yields to a record low of 5.05 percent on Monday, as investors sought a haven from tumbling global stock markets and speculated that slowing economic growth will prompt the Fed to cut interest rates soon. Some traders said Treasuries will keep attracting investors, amid tame inflation, slowing growth, and persistent problems overseas.

"Yesterday a government report showed the US economy grew at

Rate-cut hopes lift US bonds for second day

US Treasury notes and bills rose for a second day amid optimism the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates next week to ward off a global slowdown.

With expectations growing for a rate cut when Fed officials meet Tuesday, "the flows will be in the front end of the market," the most sensitive to expectations about Fed policy, said George Adell, a trader at Starboard Capital Markets Inc.

The yield on the \$15 billion of two-year notes the Treasury auctioned Wednesday are at 4.45 percent, down 16 basis points since the sale. Three-month bill yields fell 5 basis points to 4.62 percent, a four-year low. US 30-year bonds fell 1/4, or \$2.50 per \$100 bond, to 104 3/4. Yields rose 1 basis point to 5.18 percent.

US notes and bills rallied Wednesday after remarks from Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan fanned expectations a rate cut is

imminent. The central bank has left its target for overnight lending between banks at 5.5 percent since March 1997.

The US economy will likely slow as a result of "deteriorating foreign economies," and that slowdown "will be more than sufficient to hold inflation in check," Greenspan told the Senate Budget Committee. That fueled talk he will push for a rate cut when central bankers meet Tuesday, to ward off a global economic slowdown.

At current levels, all Treasuries yield below the fed funds target, indicating traders see a strong chance of a rate cut. Two-year note yields are more than a percentage point below fed funds.

Also pointing to increased expectations for one or more rate cuts are Eurodollar futures, or dollars on deposit outside the US. The securities are among the most sensitive to changes in Fed rate

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Perfect plea bargain eludes Clinton

If Clinton comes clean before Congress, some say his troubles will finally be over. But the legal experts disagree, Rita Ciolli reports from Washington

The latest political solution to avoid impeachment is for President Bill Clinton to come clean in a formal speech before Congress, some White House aides and lawmakers suggested this week.

But for Clinton to now admit to any sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky could be a trap, according to legal experts.

In trying to move Congress toward a lesser punishment of censure, Clinton risks strengthening the impeachment case against him, bolstering any criminal case that could be brought by independent counsel Kenneth Starr and reviving the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit.

"The people want him to make an admission, but he doesn't want to make an admission that can be used against him later," said Steven Lubet, a professor at Northwestern University School of Law.

Experts say Clinton should only confess to Congress as part of a deal that also gives him immunity from the two antagonists who have undermined his presidency: Starr and Jones.

For Clinton to now admit that his relationship falls under the legal definition of "sexual relations," the president is essentially saying he committed perjury in January during his deposition in the Jones case, and again during his testimony to a federal grand jury in August.

"You're looking for a plea bargain, but a plea bargain doesn't mean you announce you are guilty and then see what happens," said Gerald Lynch, a professor at Columbia Law School and an expert in criminal law. "It means you negotiate in advance and then the defendant agrees to accept the punishment that has been agreed on."

With reaction to the televising of Clinton's grand jury testimony still evolving, it is unclear whether the Republicans controlling Congress or the White House

would have the upper hand in an immunity deal.

A plea bargain to end the political and legal entanglements only works if there is a national sentiment against impeachment, according to lawyers.

"If there is a general consensus that Clinton should remain in office, probably subject to some form of censure, then an assurance from Ken Starr that there would be no future criminal prosecution and

In admitting that his relationship with Lewinsky falls under the legal definition of "sexual relations," Clinton would also be admitting to two instances of perjury

a settlement of the Paula Jones lawsuit will probably be very possible," said Eric Freedman, a professor of constitutional law at Hofstra University.

Freedman said any indictment by Starr would probably be challenged all the way to the US Supreme Court. And even if successful, the independent counsel would have the daunting task of trying to convict Clinton on murky evidence before a jury in Washington, DC.

"More than likely Starr would welcome the chance to appear like a statesman and waive prosecution," said Freedman.

THE other stumbling block to a plea bargain could be Jones, the former Arkansas state employee who claims that Clinton exposed himself to her and asked for oral sex.

Any admissions of perjury make Clinton vulnerable to being found in criminal contempt by US District Court Judge Susan Webber Wright, who dismissed the Jones suit in May.

Wright was sitting in the same room with Clinton when he gave a deposition saying he didn't recall whether he was ever alone with Lewinsky or exchanged gifts with her.

At that January 17 session, Clinton also said he didn't know that Lewinsky was under subpoena in the Jones case, a fact he acknowledged in his grand jury testimony last month.

Besides the risk of criminal contempt by Wright, there is the chance that the Jones suit could be reinstated by the federal appeals court in St. Paul, Minn., which hears the case on October 20.

"If it wasn't for Paula Jones, I think he could admit that he had this sexual tryst with Monica Lewinsky," said John Whitehead, co-counsel in the Jones case.

Whitehead said that his side is always open to a settlement proposal, but Jones has always insisted that Clinton admit to the harassing conduct while he was governor and apologize.

But would Clinton agree to bend his knee to Congress, Starr and Jones when the advice of his own legal team is that he would probably win if he fought impeachment in Congress and Starr and Jones in court?

"If he adheres to his current legal strategy, I think he will prevail," said Northwestern law professor Lubet.

"But that means a distraction of at least half a year at every level of government. Then the public would have to decide who to blame for pushing it to the brink." (Newsday)



Clinton responding to a question about his interpretation of sexual relations during his videotaped testimony: Experts say Clinton should only confess to Congress as part of a deal that also gives him immunity from the two antagonists who have undermined his presidency: Starr and Jones. (AP)

When a case of spotty memory turns into crime

Last year, federal prosecutors launched nearly 50,000 criminal cases. Eighty-seven of them were perjury.

Lying, and what the law should do about it, are among the core issues in the case against President Clinton. Perjury allegations are central to five of the 11 grounds for impeachment in Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr's report to Congress.

In the eyes of the law, lying is anything but simple.

Lying to a DC police officer, for example, is not a crime. Lying to an FBI agent is. (Lying to the officer is still not the best idea; it could lead to various charges, including obstruction of justice.) The crime of perjury is more complicated than making a statement that is not true.

"Perjury is really hard to prove," said Jim Cole, a veteran Washington public integrity lawyer now in private practice. "When you try a perjury case, you are splitting legal hairs. They are very technical cases."

"It comes down to what the person said, what they understood themselves to be saying, and what they understood the question to be."

A good chunk of the legal arguments between Starr and the White House is devoted to debates over when a spotty memory turns into perjury. Both sides cite dozens of cases to support their contentions — an argument that could stretch back to the British Perjury Statute of 1563, when perjury was defined as a deliberate lie.

Whatever the legal arguments, in practice, prosecutors go after only certain kinds of liars — chiefly public officials and bad police officers.

"As prosecutors, we encounter people who lie under oath all the time," acknowledged S. Randolph Sengel, the commonwealth's attorney in Alexandria, Va. "I don't mean to sound cynical, but a day doesn't go by when somebody doesn't come to court and bend it a little. If you were determined to prosecute every falsehood people made in court, that is all you would be doing."

If perjury is rarely prosecuted, prosecutors do go after other, lesser fibs. Lies told in hopes of snaring extra Social Security benefits generated four times as

many criminal cases as perjury last year. And there were nearly 10 times as many prosecutions for income tax fraud as for perjury.

Perjury often is a way for prosecutors to boost other charges — especially in public corruption cases.

Federal prosecutors said they have no set rules or formulas about when to charge perjury, but they acknowledged that the threshold is lower for lies by public officials and police officers and for sustained lying that impedes a major investigation.

"We tend to be particularly perturbed if it's high public officials," said an assistant US attorney in the district who asked not to be identified.

Some prosecutors said the difference is intentional: Public officials ought to be held to a higher standard than other citizens. But other lawyers said there may be a more mundane reason for the large number of politicians among perjury defendants.

While many attorneys will tell their clients not to talk to a grand jury, "Public officials and cops are going to talk more often in the grand jury," Cole said. "They think they'll be able to talk their way out of it."

Independent counsels, in particular, have tended to bring perjury charges more often than government prosecutors do. Some defense lawyers said independent counsels use perjury as a way to get at targets who could not be convicted on the substance of the investigation.

But others said the frequent perjury charges stem instead from the nature of public corruption probes: Targets have often testified at great length before grand juries or Congress, giving the independent counsels mountains of material to inspect for discrepancies between testimony and the documentary evidence.

IN THE Iran-contra scandal, many charges involved witnesses accused of lying to congressional investigators. In a case that sent a message to other prospective witnesses, a Chicago man was convicted of lying to a federal grand jury investigating former representative Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill. Rostenkowski ultimately pleaded guilty in 1996 to two

A good chunk of the arguments between Kenneth Starr and the White House is debate over what perjury actually is. In the eyes of the law, lying is anything but simple, Roberto Suro and Bill Miller discover

counts of mail fraud.

Much of the pending case against former Clinton administration housing secretary Henry Cisneros focuses on false statements he allegedly made to the FBI during a background investigation.

Cisneros is accused of conspiring to hide details of his relationship with an ex-mistress before and after his confirmation in January 1993. He has denied wrongdoing.

And in perhaps the most famous perjury case in American history, Alger Hiss, a former State Department official, was convicted in 1950 of lying about whether he had passed copies of confidential documents to Whittaker Chambers, who claimed to be a courier for a communist spy ring in the 1930s. Hiss, who denied the accusations until his death in 1996, was never charged with

"You have to show what was said was false, that the defendant knew it was false, and that the defendant willfully lied"

— E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., defense lawyer

espionage; instead, he was prosecuted for lying in his sworn statements.

PROSECUTORS and defense lawyers agree that perjury is and should be a difficult crime to prove.

"It is so common for honest witnesses to remember events differently or to get confused or make mistakes that you need a law that only punishes lies that are deliberate and have real consequences," said Ephraim Margolin, a criminal defense lawyer in San Francisco. "Otherwise, every witness would be exposed to prosecution."

Perjury is far narrower than the lay concept of lying. "You have to show what was said was false, that the defendant knew it was false, and that the defendant willfully lied," said E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., a Washington defense lawyer and former federal prosecutor.

And to be prosecuted, lies must be important. Under federal law, for false testimony to qualify as perjury,

it must have the potential to affect the outcome of the proceeding.

West Virginia resident Sharon Dunnigan learned the hard way that when perjury is prosecuted, it can be serious business. Three witnesses told a federal jury that Dunnigan ran cocaine from Cleveland to Charleston, W.Va. Three others said they bought cocaine from her. Never happened, Dunnigan testified.

The jury found her guilty of drug trafficking in the 1989 case. The sentencing guidelines for trafficking would have put her away for about three years. Then, prosecutors persuaded the judge to tack on nearly another year for lying.

The extra punishment was justified because Dunnigan testified that she "reflects on a defendant's... willingness to accept the commands of the law and on her authority of the court, and on her character in general." Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote when the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the sentencing in 1993.

IN the Clinton impeachment case, Starr has alleged that the president committed perjury when he used "semantic" arguments to deny a sexual relationship with Monica S. Lewinsky.

While the president has admitted making misleading statements, he and his lawyers steadfastly deny that he committed perjury either in his January 17 deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit or during his grand jury testimony seven months later.

In a now-infamous statement, Clinton told the grand jury that one of his denials in the deposition was literally truthful because he said it in the present tense and indeed, he was not having sex with Lewinsky at the moment of his testimony.

"It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is," Clinton said. "Actually, in the present tense, that is an accurate statement."

The president appears to have studied the law well. In a 1973 decision, the Supreme Court dismissed a perjury conviction against a witness who made a statement that was accurate in the present tense but was otherwise clearly false and misleading.

"The burden is on the questioner to pin the witness down to the specific object of the questioner's inquiry," wrote Chief Justice Warren E. Burger for a unanimous court. (The Washington Post)

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A sober look at how the war was won

The heroic performance of the IDF reservists is one of the legacies of the Yom Kippur War. Stuart A. Cohen argues that the military victory came despite the use of reservists and not because of them

Experts still debate many of the military lessons of the Yom Kippur War, but two conclusions seem widely accepted. First, considering the disadvantageous conditions under which the IDF entered the war, its ultimate achievements were outstanding. Second, of the several factors which turned the tide, undoubtedly the most obtrusive was the heroic performance of the IDF's reservists. Pinned into combat at literally a moment's notice, Israel's citizen-soldiers saved the country from military humiliation.

That accomplishment exerted a profound effect on Israeli strategic planning. The performance of the IDF reservists in 1973 was considered a vindication of the IDF's force structure as a whole. Hence, whereas several other dimensions of Israeli security thinking were subsequently reviewed (and in some cases revised), the IDF's retention of its traditional framework of military service was not affected.

Instead, the need to maintain the reserve system has remained dogma. To what extent does a study of the Yom Kippur War in fact support that stand?

One place to look for an answer is the final report of the Agranat Commission, established in the wake of the 1973 war, whose full and uncensored version has only in the last few years been made available to the public at the IDF archives.

Quite apart from its historical data, this document also contains several conclusions which are still of practical relevance, especially where the IDF's reserve system is concerned.

On this subject (as on others), the report suggests that the lessons of Yom Kippur are less straightforward than might be thought.

True, the report confirms the crucial contribution of IDF reservists to the ultimate battlefield outcome. Without their skill and valor, Israel could not have recovered from the shock of the outbreak of war and the initial run of defeats.

But the report also suggests that the achievement was attained despite the reserve system and not by virtue of its application. In effect, the outcome of the war reflected far more credit on the reservists as individuals than on the framework of which they formed a part.

THE decision to construct the IDF on a "three-tier" basis (consisting in ascending numerical order - of professionals, conscripts and reservists) was taken as early as 1949. In part, this choice reflected David Ben-Gurion's determination to project the IDF as a "people's army," which would bond Israel's heterogeneous society.

But the principal justifications were operational. Only a force with unrestricted access to Israel's total

available pool of human resources (female as well as male) could moderate the demographic disparities between the IDF and its potential foes. Quality alone would not suffice. Numbers also counted.

In time, this conception was elaborated. IDF reservists were not categorized as "auxiliaries" and relegated to secondary duties. Rather, they were regarded as core combat troops and fully integrated into the overall force structure. They also became essential components of military strategic planning. Their participation in battle was considered indispensable to the attainment of a "decisive" victory.

Like virtually every other aspect of Israel's early military doctrine, the IDF's utilization of reservists seemed to be vindicated by the 1967 Six Day War. Thanks to the reserve mobilizations carried out during the "waiting period" prior to June 6, the High Command had been able to feed into battle the maximum number of personnel at exactly the right times and locations.

Moreover, the technical proficiency displayed by all troops during the fighting generated a new set of hypotheses regarding their future deployment.

Henceforth, professionals and conscripts could be relied upon to

One lesson of the Yom Kippur War is that reserve forces constitute much less flexible agencies of force than they might initially appear

hold back an initial enemy attack; the reservists would then deliver the decisive counter-blow.

These concepts permeated IDF thinking in the early 1970s. Planning was then dominated by the notion that the next war - unlike the 1969-1970 War of Attrition, but in keeping with the operational style adopted in 1967 - would be characterized by a series of swift and massive thrusts designed to culminate in a smashing Israeli military victory.

If attacked, the IDF was not to stand on the defensive. Instead, Israeli forces were to move as quickly as possible onto the offensive, and to carry the battle - with all forces at their disposal (i.e. including the reserves) - to enemy territory.



IDF tank reinforcements head to the Golan Heights: Instead of being an orderly process, mobilization became an administrative shambles with foul-ups at every stage.

On this point, chief of general staff during the Yom Kippur War, David Elazar, was emphatic. As he told his staff on May 2, 1973: "... I want us all to be absolutely aware of the fact that our problem - should war indeed break out - is to attack very quickly and to attain substantive and meaningful gains. That is the object. I do not visualize any messing around with an extended war, developing war, attrition etc. What I certainly do see - and this has relevance for early decisions on our part, for our preliminary preparations and for our readiness - is to carry out an offensive immediately."

Given that mindset, the role allotted to the reserves was rigidly defined. In the event of an Arab attack, they were not to be employed during the initial "holding" stage, which would necessarily have to be defensive in form.

"Absorption" was to be a temporary phase, entrusted entirely to the regular forces (including the air force) and to the limited number of reserves on routine duty. The main body of the reserves would not enter the fray until they had been fully mobilized - and would be used in a series of deep-penetration and offensive armored thrusts.

ONE OF the principal findings of the Agranat Report is that the failure of this strategy in October 1973 cannot be attributed solely to bad luck or to technical flaws.

The faults were far more fundamental, and resided in the very assumptions upon which military planning had been based. The list of faulty assumptions - "misconceptions," as they have become known - is long.

At a tactical level, it begins with the IDF's confidence that "the regular forces can hold the line by themselves" (an assessment itself based on a gross underestimate of



A quiet moment on the Suez front: The Agranat Report praised the valor and skill of individual reservists, but slams the reserve system as a whole.

the improvement since 1967 in Arab fighting abilities).

It also extends to the almost mystical belief that the Israel Air Force would be able to attack enemy ground forces at will (a possibility virtually nullified in the first days of the fighting by the presence of thick clusters of SAM missiles on both the Egyptian and Syrian fronts).

These fallacies were compounded, secondly, by several "strategic" misperceptions.

The most influential, and notorious, was the general Israeli refusal to acknowledge that an enemy attack in October 1973 was at all a practical possibility.

It was to this "blind spot" that the Agranat commissioners attributed the off-hand manner in which Major-General Eli Zeira, then head of IDF Intelligence, reacted to various signals of imminent war and his consequent failure to provide adequate advance warning of its outbreak.

They found the same cause responsible for Elazar's neglect to take sufficient defensive precautions, especially in the first week of October.

In the immediate aftermath of the war, these findings had dramatic consequences. The Agranat Report triggered the immediate resignation of both Zeira and Elazar, and severely discredited the government headed by Golda Meir.

But the agitation deflected attention from the fact that the Agranat commissioners had also uncovered a third, and entirely different, set of misperceptions, relating specifically to the reservists. These warrant further analysis.

IDF planning prior to 1973 took it for granted that the General Staff would always be able to mobilize whatever quantity of reserves it deemed necessary for operational purposes. The chief of staff had merely to state his needs to the defense minister, who would thereafter obtain the virtually automatic sanction of the prime minister and cabinet.

This was an illusion. Studies of other international crises (most notably, that which preceded the outbreak of World War I in 1914) have clearly demonstrated that the mobilization of reserves - far from being a mere formality - is one of the most sensitive issues in all civil-military relations, demanding particularly careful regulation.

Principally, this is because of its inherent escalatory potential. After all, once mobilized, reserves can-

not be kept in the field indefinitely. Budgetary considerations must soon combine with societal strains to mandate that they either be disbanded or sent into battle.

Demobilization is always possible. But in Israel's case, sensitivity to the fragility of the country's security margins has always made the escalatory option far more likely. Hence only a short step might separate mobilization from war.

The restraints which these considerations can place on the IDF's freedom of action became stark early in the morning of October 6. Confronted with news that an attack on his forces was imminent, Elazar looked to an immediate and large-scale mobilization of the reserves as a means of turning the tables. This was the only way he could move, as planned, to the offensive.

But when the chief of staff put this option to defense minister Moshe Dayan at 5:50 a.m., an unexpected obstacle arose. Dayan refused to authorize anything larger

Instead, he took no action whatsoever before personally presenting his case for full mobilization to the prime minister. Ultimately, Golda Meir sided with her chief of staff, and overruled Dayan's objections. But that decision was not taken until 9:25 a.m., by which time, in the words of the Agranat Report, several "vital hours" had been "wasted" in virtual inactivity.

ONCE Meir's sanction for a full-scale mobilization had been obtained, the relevant orders were soon issued. But it was at this stage, when speed was obviously essential, that a second constraint inherent in all reserve systems became apparent.

Reservists, it transpired, cannot be smoothly fed into battle at a moment's notice. In contrast to professional forces, their mobilization and deployment requires both time and a particularly sophisticated infrastructure.

In October 1973, the IDF - contrary to all expectations - pos-

Alternatively, the stores were in place, but there existed no means for extracting them from the depot. ("One [reserve] brigade suffered a delay of nine hours in the distribution of tank ammunition, principally because no steps had been taken to ensure the presence of sufficient forklifts.... Possibly, but for this delay, the severe crisis on the [northern] front in the first stages of the war might have been avoided.")

And even when that shambles was sorted out, the IDF found it difficult to dispatch its reserve forces to the front in accordance with military procedure, or even logic.

Armored units were sent on their way in small packets, without due consideration for the readiness of their organic support and logistic elements, or for the availability of tank transports.

As the Agranat commissioners pointed out at considerable length, responsibility for so extended a succession of administrative mishaps cannot be attributed to any one cause.

A combination of factors was at work. One was the state of psychological shock - indeed panic - induced by the very fact that fighting had broken out so unexpectedly.

Another was the abysmal state of the emergency stores (*yamachim*), maintenance at which bordered on criminal negligence.

But the most important was the absence of prewar sensitivity to the fact that reserve troops - precisely because they are reserve troops - require a particularly sophisticated logistic infrastructure, itself staffed by personnel of the very highest organizational ability.

The IDF of 1973, it is now clear, entirely ignored this requirement, trusting simply that "everything will be all right" (*yihyeh beseder*).

ON THIS evidence, then, one lesson of the Yom Kippur War is that reserve forces constitute much less flexible agencies of force than they might initially appear.

Unless treated with extreme caution, they might narrow, rather than widen, the options available to commanders and politicians. One reason, as we have seen, is that a mobilization of reserve forces demands a particularly sophisticated calibration of political and military purposes.

Consequently, it also mandates an especially high level of consensus between generals and statesmen with regards to the desired "match" of political ends and military means.

To this must be added, secondly, their particular organizational requirements. Regular forces, especially when composed primarily of professional troops, can at least be expected to maintain a minimum standard of battle-readiness, which might reduce the adverse impact of strategic military surprise.

But reservists - even when as well-trained and as experienced as the Israelis were - cannot be classified as "quick-reaction" forces. Their fighting "teeth" can only be effective if serviced by an especially lengthy - and efficient - logistic "tail."

It is impossible to calculate the price which Israel paid in 1973 as a result of the IDF's insensitivity to these two constraints. One can only hope that, a quarter of a century later, the lessons have been absorbed.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University. This article is extracted from a forthcoming study of the operational performance of IDF reservists.

Reserve troops require a particularly sophisticated logistic infrastructure staffed by personnel of the very highest organizational ability. The IDF of 1973 entirely ignored this requirement

than a "partial" mobilization. Full-scale mobilization, he warned, might precipitate the very war which he still hoped it might be possible to avert.

"[I am] skeptical about mobilizing for a counterattack in a war which has not yet begun," the Agranat Report quotes him as telling Elazar. "Even if it is certain that war will break out, can we not mobilize reserves only for defense?"

As we have seen, none of Elazar's plans allowed for that particular alternative. The reserves had been assigned a purely offensive role - and in that capacity really held the IDF's entire strategy in thrall.

Precisely because of the prominence allotted to the reserves in Israeli military thinking, the chief of staff had no option other than to institute a full mobilization. Hence, he could not even take advantage of the "half a cake" which Dayan had offered.

Full-scale mobilization, he warned, might precipitate the very war which he still hoped it might be possible to avert.

The evidence collated by the Agranat commissioners reveals that foul-ups occurred at every stage. Even though the war broke out on the one day in the year when the roads were not congested, the reaction to mobilization was far from immediate.

To this was added the delays caused by the need to register troops as they eventually reported for duty. ("The entire clerical procedure of absorption was very poor and took far too long. All the paperwork was a mess... they didn't work fast enough.")

Thirdly, much of the equipment which the reserves were supposed to draw from the emergency stores was either missing or unfit for use.

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Ya'acov Hisdai: 'There is no doubt that both Gush Emunim and Peace Now were attempts to infuse society, a society mired after the war in deep depression, with an optimistic new hope.' (Left) Then chief of staff Motta Gur surrounded by Gush Emunim protestors; (Right) A Peace Now demonstration in Jerusalem, 1979. (Photos: David Rubinger)

A victory remembered as a defeat

Like a massive lake whose water fills countless rivers and streams that shape the terrain through which they flow, so too the Yom Kippur War has carved away at Israeli society.

The war, whose 25th Hebrew anniversary will be marked on Wednesday, was a war of startling paradox: It was won on the battlefield, but perceived as a colossal failure in the collective memory.

It was a war that spawned Gush Emunim, but also Peace Now; two conflicting utopian/messianic

hypercritical eye with which we view our leaders; in the tremendous polarization between Left and Right; in the lack of certitude in the rightness of our cause.

The war, argues reserve colonel Ya'acov Hisdai, a military investigator for the Agranat Commission that investigated the Yom Kippur War, put an end to the "Israeli-ness" that was so dominant up to that time.

"The Israeli self-confidence, the optimism, the feeling of the justice of the cause, all that fell apart on Yom Kippur," he says.

The war's echoes are felt in the cynicism with which we view our leaders; in the tremendous polarization between Left and Right; in the lack of certitude in the rightness of our cause

movements that have defined the country's debate ever since. It was a war fought with Egypt and Syria, but which placed the Palestinians at the center of the internal domestic agenda.

The impact of this war is felt keenly, even 25 years later, and not only in the sense that it paved the way for Camp David and peace with Egypt, or that it turned the US into the central player in the region, or that it brought Menachem Begin to power.

The war's echoes are felt in the cynical and, some would argue,

Hebrew University psychology professor Amia Lieblich, whose book *Tin Soldiers on Jerusalem Beach* dealt to a large extent with the effects of the war on soldiers, says the war "made us more vulnerable, more believing that something bad could happen here."

"Something very basic in society broke down," she says, "our view that our strength can prevent all bad."

LIEBLICH says the war was traumatic in that more and more people started to fear that the country

A war that was won on the battlefield is still perceived as a colossal failure in the collective memory of Israelis. Herb Keinon explores the continuing impact of the Yom Kippur War



The war symbolized a crumbling of the old order, symbolized by Golda Meir, and the beginning of the construction of a new one. (Josef Roth)

could be destroyed, and that it was not the safe haven it was designed, and purported, to be.

From 1948, the country - like a

graph charting a bull stock market - was on an upward curve: the War of Independence, the Sinai Campaign, massive immigrant absorption, the Six Day War, a booming economy.

And then came October 6, 1973, and the line on the chart took a nosedive. The bottom fell out - or so it has been perceived.

Perception here is very important. Bar-Ilan University political science professor Charles Liebman, who wrote a paper on the war entitled "The Myth of Defeat," says that the war - which ended with Israel having battled back its enemies and on the offensive - could have been just as easily portrayed in the collective memory as a great victory.

"The fact that society insisted on calling it a defeat is because it shattered a lot of the dreams and fantasies Israelis had about their own society following the Six Day War, as well as the notion that somehow Jews were safe here," Liebman says.

Wars - even defeats - are generally later portrayed as victories, Liebman argues.

"It is the myth of victory. People die, and you never want to say they died for nothing, so you begin to fantasize and mythologize that there was a victory. That is the story of Masada, and of Tel Hai. These are defeats that were turned into victories."

"What was so unusual about the Yom Kippur War is that it potentially could have been viewed as a great victory, and instead society insisted on seeing it as a defeat."

The reason, he posits, is because the Yom Kippur War led to a tremendous sense of despair that the dreams of 1967 had been destroyed - dreams that somehow Israel was different, that Jews were now safe, that they could defend themselves without outside intervention.

"We were totally unprepared," he says. "The visions we had following the Six Day War of being a major regional power, forever secure, all this was shattered."

"The war's scars are not the fresh scars they were, but they did leave marked changes in Israeli society. The war reminded the Jews of Israel of the precariousness of their position."

Among the deepest scars, says Hisdai, who wrote a book on the war entitled *Emet B'tzel Milhama* ("Truth in the Shadow of War"), was the self-doubt.

holding the territories only began in earnest after the 1973 war, says Hisdai. In the years between 1967 and 1973, he says, only a few people on the extreme Left - such as Yeshayahu Leibowitz - questioned the morality of holding on to the territories.

"In 1972, Golda Meir said there is no such thing as Palestinians. These questions were not raised at all. After '73 they were raised with a passion."

WHILE the war ended the dreams and fantasies many Jews had held

that would prevent war, but in utopian terms of a new era, a new moral spirit, a new, more moral society," he says.

Hisdai, who deals extensively with the changes the war wrought on Israeli society in a new book called *Yisrael B'saf Hayovel* ("Israel on the Threshold of the Jubilee"), says "There is no doubt in my eyes that both Gush Emunim and Peace Now were attempts to infuse society, a society mired after the war in deep depression, with an optimistic new hope."

The end result, he maintains, has

From 1948, the country - like a graph charting a bull stock market - was on an upward curve. Then came October 6, 1973, and the line on the chart took a nosedive

beforehand, it bred new ones to replace the old. Thus, maintains Hisdai, Gush Emunim and Peace Now were born.

"Even before the war there was debate about the territories, but it was primarily a security debate: whether we need the territories for security, if there is a need to control the Arab population there, if we can control the Arab population there."

"The crisis of the war was so great that Gush Emunim and Peace Now not only looked for answers to the security question, but also looked for answers that were essentially an attempt to regain the Israeli optimism and self-confidence. They wanted to create a new hope and a new dream, to replace the hopes and dreams that burst."

As a result, Hisdai says, Gush Emunim spoke of the territories in ideological terms, and of a messianic era.

"And Peace Now did not only speak of peace in terms of treaties

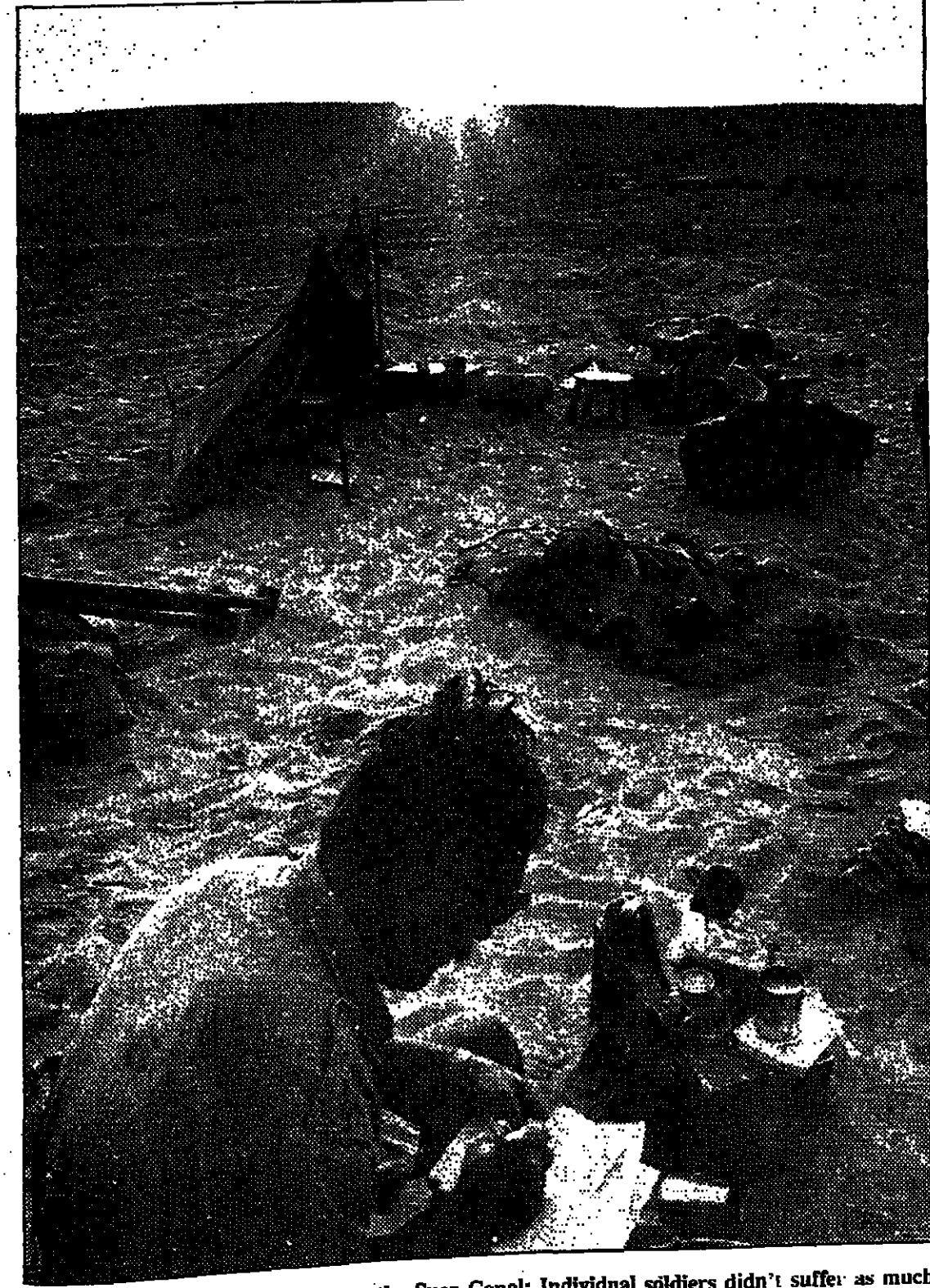
begin negative, because society became addicted" to dealing with the solutions proffered by these two utopian movements, and failed to deal with the true problems facing the country: building a healthy, strong, value-infused society that can weather the immense challenges that it will continuously face.

The two movements, Gush Emunim and Peace Now, were instrumental in setting into motion two conflicting processes - the settlement enterprise and the Oslo process - that are on a collision course and have caused deep societal divisions.

"The country's polarization, its deep fissures, are a result of the conflicting ideologies that developed after the Yom Kippur War," Hisdai says.

Bar-Ilan's Liebman, however, has a slightly different take on the rise of Gush Emunim after the war.

See VICTORY, Page 18



Writing home from the sands near the Suez Canal: Individual soldiers didn't suffer as much trauma in their daily lives as is generally thought, writes sociologist Edna Lomsky-Feder. But the war was a massive blow for the Israeli collective.

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New piper perhaps, but the same old tune

With Germany facing landmark general elections on Sunday, Thomas O'Dwyer joins the campaign trail and finds personality eclipsing policies

This weekend, 60 million Germans vote for the man who will lead their country into an uncertain third millennium, when the postwar Bonn republic will become the united new Berlin republic.

Their choice is between the solid and familiar Helmut Kohl who, according to opinion polls, is despised just for being around too long, and Gerhard Schröder, a political moving target no one can quite fathom.

It is an important election. The European Union common currency, the euro, is just around the corner, the financial crises around the world have led to a crisis of confidence in Germany's future, and an increasingly overburdened welfare system has to deal with both six million jobless and an aging baby-boomer generation.

And this will be the German government that moves back to Berlin around the turn of the century.

The voters may have a choice between two very different leaders, but they have little to choose between the policies of their main parties.

Both Kohl's CDU (Christian Democrats) and Schröder's SPD (Social Democrats) have produced remarkably bland and similar election platforms.

"A congestion of reform exists," said Gerhard Gohler, a political scientist at Berlin Free University. "There is the unemployment. Germany needs to modernize its welfare structure. There is the ecology."

On these things, everyone agrees, said Gohler.

"That's why the politics [of the main parties] are similar. They also agree on the European Union expanding east and on NATO. Both candidates for chancellor avoid matters of substance, so it has become personal. Kohl says he has done a good job. Schröder says fine, so be it, but now where do we want to go?"

"Politics has boiled down to personalities and coalition

maneuvers — substance has faded into the background."

To find real alternatives, the voters must look to either the extreme right or the Greens. But 96 percent of the electorate wants nothing to do with radical rightists, and the Greens, facing the possibility of real power in coalition with the SPD if Schröder wins, have trimmed their radical greenery.

"Since there is not much difference between the policies being offered, I think personality will have an impact," said a senior German diplomat in Israel.

Some 3.3 million young Germans will be voting for the first time in this election for the 14th Bundestag. State elections are also taking place this year — Lower Saxony voted in March, Bavaria and Mecklenburg-Pomerania this month.

Each citizen has two votes in the German system — one for candidates in his or her constituency — a direct vote — and one for the party candidate lists, an indirect vote. The chancellor is elected by parliament after the voters have made their choice of parties and personalities.

To keep fringe and extremist parties out of parliament, the electoral law has an effective blocking clause. Any party must poll at least 5 percent of all the votes in the 16 states to qualify for admission.

"LACKLUSTER" has been the media's favorite cliché for the election campaign so far. This is partly because of the lack of new political ideas, and partly because Schröder's lead in opinion polls seemed to be turning the fight into a "no contest."

The CDU election platform (which it shares with Bavaria's CSU) promises to slash taxes, cut social-security charges, and cut public spending. This is its formula for revitalizing Germany's unemployment-ridden economy.

The SPD has been trying to sell itself as "the new center," an echo



How will he vote? A Hamburg man walks past election posters showing German Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the Christian Democratic Union, left, and his challenger Gerhard Schröder of the Social Democratic Party. (AP)

of Tony Blair's British New Labor — but it is a faint echo, for no similar remodeling of the SPD has even been attempted. It has dropped some of the more old-fashioned left-wing pledges for more centrist ideas lifted from Kohl's party.

Like the CDU, the SPD promises to cut taxes and to reform — but not scrap — the

extensive social-welfare system. On unemployment, it would seek wage restraint from unions in exchange for jobs pledges from industry.

Yet the party itself remains well to the left of its candidate Schröder.

"If the SPD wins convincingly, Schröder might have problems," said a European diplomat.

"On the other hand, if the SPD can't win with Schröder, who can it win with, without a major overhaul?"

HOWEVER, Kohl has been written off so often in the past that he easily rivals Bill Clinton for the title of "comeback kid."

In the past fortnight, interest in the Kohl campaign has quickened, after developments for his party suggested that the tide of disillusion with his government may have turned.

Kohl's Bavarian allies, the CSU, won 52% of the vote in the election there two weeks ago, retaining their control of the federal republic's biggest and richest state.

The results in Bavaria, two weeks before the nationwide vote, was a rude awakening for SPD. The party polled less than 30% despite a vigorous campaign by Schröder.

"This was a serious blow for the Social Democrats and especially for their candidate for chancellor," said Bavaria's premier, Edmund Stoiber. "There has

Germany's alphabet soup

CDU — Christian Democratic Union, the mainstream party of the center and social market economy, has been in power since 1982.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl is the party chairman.

SPD — Social Democratic Party, the mainstream center-left party.

With strong support from unions, it is strong on social-justice legislation. The chairman is Oscar Lafontaine, but the party decided to run Gerhard Schröder, the popular state premier of Lower Saxony, for chancellor.

CSU — Christian Socialist Union. The CDU's sister party, it exists only in Bavaria, where it is in solid control. The chairman is Finance Minister Theodore Waigel.

FDP — The standard-bearer of German liberalism. It has shared

power in coalition with the majority party since 1969 and traditionally decides who gets the foreign, economics and justice ministries. The federal chairman is Wolfgang Gerhardt.

Alliance 90/The Greens — The ecology party, founded in 1980 from diverse environmental groups, won its first Bundestag seat in 1983.

In 1990 the Greens became Alliance 90/The Greens when joined by groups from the former East Germany. Run by an executive committee, its best-known personality is Joseph Fischer, who leads the Bundestag faction.

PDS — Party of Democratic Socialism, the democratic heir of the autocratic East German Communist Party.

Its platform is old-fashioned leftist. Its strongholds remain in the east. The chairman is Lothar Bisky.

Nonetheless, the CSU did win. An opinion poll called by Forsa, Institute, to gauge the national response to Bavaria, showed 38% of respondents supporting Kohl's CDU, an increase of two percent over an earlier sample by the same pollster.

Schröder's SPD lost a point for 41%. (These shifts are within the possible error margin of three percent).

The election campaign has few issues of serious concern to the small German Jewish community. At one point, controversy over the troubled Holocaust memorial project in Berlin — stalled for 10 years — threatened to become an issue.

The much-delayed memorial must be approved by the federal government and by the Berlin municipality. The main political parties agreed in the summer that a decision on the final design would be delayed until after the election.

Ignatz Bubis, president of Germany's Central Council of Jews, said last week that the memorial would be axed if Kohl loses the election. The SPD has suggested canceling the project because any constructed memorial is inadequate to mark the Holocaust.

Kohl has said that remembering the victims in a public way "goes to the very core of our self-image as a nation." He continues to be a passionate advocate of the scheme.

been a clear change in voting trends, and the CDU is now moving up."

Stoiber was dissembling to an extent — the SPD correctly pointed out that Stoiber kept the CSU campaign a noticeable distance

from its CDU sister. He rarely mentioned Kohl and lambasted the chancellor's pet project, the euro currency. Nationalist Bavarians deeply resent the pending abolition of the Deutschmark.

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Shargar, in front of her campaign poster: 'Women are more attuned to what's really happening in a city.'

Ms. Mayor

Israeli women are fighting a battle in local politics, overcoming prejudice, claiming they're paving the way to better government. But their path isn't exactly strewn with roses. Allison Kaplan Sommer meets some of the candidates

No one can accuse Suzanne Amor of being naive about politics. For three decades she has stood at her husband Shaul's side watching him navigate political minefields, both as mayor of Migdal Ha'emek and then as a Knesset member.

She shared his disappointment when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reneged on a promise to appoint him cabinet minister and soldiered by his side during an unsuccessful bid for president against Ezer Weizman.

So when Suzanne decided to run for mayor of Migdal Ha'emek in the November local elections, she couldn't have expected a rose garden.

Yet, she claims, nothing prepared her for her male opponents' gaudling.

"Much of the criticism focuses on her lack of experience. Just as a doctor's wife is not necessarily qualified to practice medicine, a mayor's wife does not necessarily have the ability to run a city, one of her opponents said publicly.

"It is hard for the male ego to accept running a campaign against a woman," says Amor, who says she has earned her standing through political and volunteer community work.

"These men know I have every qualification to run the city, yet they continue to blacken my name. They have actually agreed not to sling mud at one another — yet I am fair game."

A nurse and a midwife by profession, Amor, 52, immigrated to Israel from Morocco, via France, as a young adult. For the past few decades she has supported her husband's career, volunteered and helped out in Likud politics. But primarily she has raised a family.

When it came to pursuing a career of her own, she says, "I didn't have a choice. I had a husband who was essentially working 24 hours a day."

Now that her children are grown, she feels it's her turn.

The outspoken Amor is just one in a determined group of women attempting to penetrate the tough, male-dominated ring of local

Israeli politics.

Currently, local female leadership is terribly sparse. Among 250 municipalities, only four women hold a mayoralty or head a local council. Of these, Netanya mayor Vered Swed took the post only after the incumbent mayor resigned in May, and she is not running in November.

Other women heading local councils include American-born Marsha Caspi in Savion, Daniella Weiss in Kedumim and Yael Shaltiel in the Beit She'an Valley.

Weiss has at least two years left as council head. Caspi is running for her second term, and Shaltiel plans to run again in May 1999.

CASPI noted that when she first ran for office five years ago, there was only one other woman candidate for the job. This time round, there are many more.

"All of a sudden there has been a turnaround in the attitudes of women — not a revolution — but a process of evolution where women are realizing they can do anything," she said.

Amor calls local government, which deals with a multitude of issues affecting daily life, a natural place for women.

"A woman who can keep a house looking good inside and out has more of an esthetic sense of what a city should look like. As a mother, you are very sensitive to education and problems with young people.

"And when you raise children in a development town, you want your city to attract industry and jobs, so your children will have a

workplace when they come back after their army service."

Caspi disagrees. "It's not a gender issue," she says. "Running a town — or any other kind of work — should be done by those who are the best-equipped to do it, no matter what their sex."

Mor Shargar, 34 and daughter-in-law of retired chief justice Meir Shargar, is running on the Likud ticket for head of the Ramat Hasharon Council. She also ran for the Knesset on the Likud list in 1996.

"I think women are more attuned to what's really happening in a city," Shargar says, "especially if you are a younger woman with children. You are the ultimate end-user of the municipality's key services."

For example, I found out recently that in Ramat Hasharon the school system, which serves hundreds of kids, only has a nurse every other day — something I know I would want to change.

"Mothers are continually aware of issues that need addressing, and that is an advantage."

BOTH Amor and Shargar are currently fighting tough battles in order to keep their campaigns alive.

In Ramat Hasharon, the local press is speculating that Shargar, who is trailing behind several other candidates, may cut a deal with another mayoral candidate in exchange for the number 2 spot on the ticket, though Shargar has strongly denied such rumors.

A survey by the local newspaper Kol Ha'emek Vehagalit of the race

in Migdal Ha'emek found Amor struggling: Two of her opponents, Eli Barda of the Gesher party and Ya'acov Toledano of Labor, each were found to have the support of 25 percent of those surveyed, with Amor trailing at only 12 percent.

But the door is still open for an Amor comeback — as a full 36 percent of the voters polled were still undecided.

In recent weeks, the fact that Amor is female has become a key issue in the campaign, after her opponents persuaded a locally respected rabbi to issue an opinion forbidding the town's 1,800-odd haredim to vote for a woman, arguing as support that the Jewish people have always been led by kings, not queens.

In an attempt to counter this ruling, Amor has sought the assistance of Shas party spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, but Yosef has yet to issue a clear directive permitting his followers to cast their ballots for a woman.

In Jerusalem, Meretz MK Naomi Chazan is running for mayor, the first woman to run for the office. "If I run, I run to win," Chazan said earlier this month.

Businesswoman and socialite Galia Albin is bidding for the mayoralty in Tel Aviv, giving the race all she has. Her slogan: "Tel Aviv wins with Galia Albin."

A trailblazer in the effort to bring more women into local politics, Rina Bar-Tal of Ra'anana waved an openly feminist banner in her 1988 and 1993 campaigns for mayor as an independent. This year, as Labor Party candidate, she's using the slogan, "The Revolution Begins in Ra'anana."

While she did not win her two first two elections, she collected enough mandates to be appointed deputy mayor — a post she has held for the past decade.

Bar-Tal agrees that as women are particularly interested in education, welfare and culture, they simply have a better knowledge of what any city needs in terms of quality of life.

"We know better how to plan a city, make it convenient to use. I also think we have inborn traits



Amor: 'I'm a strong woman, and I've been told that this scares people.'

that enable us to serve people — as better civil servants and managers. "Women are team players, while men prefer to work alone."

THE results of an extensive poll commissioned by the Israel Women's Network demonstrated that the public is ready to see more women at the helm of local government. In the survey, both men and women said women were underrepresented at the local level.

When asked if they favored a 30 percent quota for women in city and municipal councils, 69 percent of the women queried and 58 percent of men supported the idea.

Among the women surveyed, 78 percent said it was "very important" or "somewhat important" to them that women be on party lists in municipal elections, and 65 percent of men said the same.

Interestingly enough, the survey found that while women were willing to participate equally in discussing politics, voting in elections or supporting a certain party, far fewer women than men said that they were "very interested" in politics or that they would consider running for office.

"There is a dichotomy between what women care about and what they are willing to do," observes Shargar.

"Women are just not as politically involved as men, and they should be. The only way to bring about change is through women themselves."

"Many women have a checkbook as big as their husband's, but they have yet to open it and support other women."

In America, the idea of fund-raising for women candidates has moved forward and that's great, Shargar continues. "I wish it would catch on here," she sighs.

On an organizational level, women's groups here have been making growing efforts to support female candidates.

"There is a significant change in approach from the previous elections in the way women are trying to change the situation. Collective efforts did exist, but they weren't extensive," says Prof. Dafna Israeli, a Bar-Ilan University sociologist who is active in the Israel Women's Network.

"There has never been so much cooperation among women's organizations and never as much professionalism" as there is now, she adds.

Israeli noted that only in the past few years have traditional organi-

If women do well at the polls in November, Bar-Tal, who chairs the IWN committee on local politics, believes "1998 could be remembered as the beginning of an era of more women running for and becoming mayors."

Many of the women candidates are vowing to bring other women along with them into the corridors of power. Shargar and Bar-Tal have both declared that, party constraints permitting, they will run council lists that are half men, half women.

FOR all their enthusiasm, the candidates warn that not every woman is cut out for politics. An unusually thick skin is a key requirement.

"You are judged and criticized constantly, every time you walk down the street. And when it comes to the political debate, it's hard to win if you are a woman."

"If you say something strong, something harsh, you're considered vulgar," Shargar says. "If you don't speak your mind, you are too shy and retiring for the job."

Amor agrees, noting with a chuckle, "I'm a strong woman, and I've been told that this scares people."

While many male politicians in Israel have found that well-known names and family connections are a clear advantage, both Shargar and Amor have found the so-called benefit to be a double-edged sword. They are frequently accused of using their married names and family connections as stepping stones to power.

Israeli finds this line of criticism absurd.

"We have a phenomenon in Israel where power breeds power, and wealth breeds wealth."

"You see women in management who are daughters of tycoons, you see daughters of attorneys and judges succeeding in law... It's only natural that women who are the wives or daughters of politicians, who live or have lived in homes where they knew important people, and who have ties to people with power, will be the first to strike out in a system that depends not so much on skill as on networks of people who can give you advice and open doors."

But what women plunging into the shark-infested waters of local politics need, more than anything, is perseverance.

"When women who want to go into politics ask my advice, I tell them this," says Shargar. "The most important thing is not to quit, but to hang in there with your chin up, no matter what."

"Women are team players, while men prefer to work alone"

— Rina Bar-Tal, Labor candidate for Ra'anana mayor

zations like WIZO put the issue of women candidates in local politics onto its agenda.

BAR-TAL, pointing to herself as an example, believes that once women get a political foothold in a particular community, there is a snowball effect.

It was not until 1993 that women were represented on more than one party list in Ra'anana, she recalls. Today, she says proudly, all the party lists include women; even the conservative National Religious Party has a woman in a realistic slot.

In some Ra'anana parties, she notes, the women are called "Bar-Tal twins."

Over the past decade Bar-Tal has noticed women themselves becoming more enthusiastic about her candidacy.

"Women would ask me 10 — even seven — years ago why I was running, whether it really mattered if there were women on the council, whether I really needed the aggravation."

"Today I think the women in Ra'anana are proud of me. I haven't held any polls, but my intuition tells me that when they see one woman fighting, it inspires them to fight as well."

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			Nitzanah	Rafiah	Allenby		Rafiah	Allenby		
Sun.	Rosh Hashana eve	20.9.98	8:00-11:00	Till 11:00	8:00 - 11:00	8:00 - 12:00	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours
Mon.	1st day RH	21.9.98	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours
Tue.	2nd day RH	22.9.98	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours
Tue.	Yom Kippur eve	29.9.98	Closed	Closed from 8:00	Closed	Closed	Till 11:00	8:00 - 11:00	6:30 - 12:00	Till 12:00
Wed.	Yom Kippur	30.9.98	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed Reopens 24:00	Closed	Closed Reopens 24:00	Closed Reopens 20:30
Sun.	Succot Eve	4.10.98	8:00 - 11:00	Till 11:00	8:00 - 11:00	8:00 - 12:00	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours
Mon.	Succot	5.10.98	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours
Sun.	Hoshana Rabba	11.10.98	8:00 - 11:00	Till 11:00	8:00 - 11:00	8:00 - 12:00	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours
Mon.	Simhat Tora	12.10.98	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours	Usual hours

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VICTORY

Continued from Page 15

Rather than an attempt to provide the country with new dreams and hopes, Lieberman maintains it was a theological explanation for the failures of the war.

Following the Six Day War, he says, referring to the national-religious, "it was clear that God was on our side. So now comes the Yom Kippur War, and what are you going to say, that God is not on our side?"

"Instead, the answer has to be that somehow we failed God. For some, the failure was in not setting the West Bank, for others for

not blowing up al-Aska Mosque and building the Third Temple." By the same token, one could argue, those in the "peace camp" looked at the results of the war, and concluded that war would not bring a solution to Israel's problems, that holding on to tracts of land does not buy security, and that compromise is necessary.

BEYOND sending people in search of sweeping theological or political conclusions, Lieberman says, the war "questioned the authority of people in charge. The feeling was that the government and the army were inept."

"It gave an impetus for volun-

teeristic activity, the feeling being that if you want something done, you'd better do it yourself. The feeling was that we can no longer have the same confidence in authority that we had before, but have to do things ourselves."

This sentiment led to the massive demonstrations against the political and military establishment that followed the war, and the establishment of the Democratic Movement for Change, Yigael Yadin's party, which helped pave the way for Menachem Begin's stunning victory in 1977.

The trust in authority that was lost in 1973 has never been regained, Lieberman says, and the

cynicism became even greater after the Lebanon War, when the country watched the limited action it supported in Lebanon turn into an incursion that was not limited at all.

Edna Lomsky-Feder, a Hebrew University sociologist who recently wrote a book on how the Yom Kippur War affected 75 soldiers, argues that the war was a watershed because it caused "immense disappointment of the sons toward the collective fathers."

The book, Ke'ilu Lo Hayta Milhama, ("As if There Was No War"), argues that soldiers between the ages of 18 and 21 did not suffer as much trauma in their day-to-day lives from the Yom Kippur War as

is generally depicted.

But this is not true of the collective, she says, for whom the war symbolized a crumbling of the old order, and the beginning of the construction of a new one.

"Part of the war's trauma for society was a growing up, a maturity, a distancing from collective fathers - a distancing that resembled adolescent trauma," she says. "All of a sudden people came to realize that the fathers could not do everything, that the nation could not do everything, that their leaders could not do everything. It is a difficult maturation process."

A process, indeed, that is still very much going on.

MOUSSA

Continued from Page 1

"We don't know what [the Palestinians] are going to say," said Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, "but we do not agree with unilateral acts as far as issues that are final, permanent-status issues."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the second redeployment "will stand on its own, and we need to reach it based on the principals of security and reciprocity - and not on any Palestinian promise to declare or not declare a statehood."

Yitzhak Lior, the Foreign Ministry's UN section head, said that if Arafat were just to mention statehood, and not an intention to declare it, Israel would not make a big fuss. "He can mention it as a dream, but we don't want it discussed as pragmatic step in the making. This will really be pushing us," he said.

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and Netanyahu adviser Yitzhak Molcho, meanwhile, are scheduled to travel to Washington today to meet with US officials in the hope that enough progress can be made to make a meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat viable.

"We keep making progress... and we will keep pursuing this road," said Albright. "We will try to 'lock in' whatever we have agreed upon and I can't predict that at this point, because we are in the middle of having these discussions. I think we have felt there has been systematic progress. Ambassador Ross's last trip to the region... laid a good basis for the discussion we are going to have here."

She added that, while she would be meeting with the two sides separately, no date has been set for a joint meeting. She advised that all involved should "stay tuned."

WALL

Continued from Page 1

Its proposal was made in response to a petition to the High Court of Justice by the Women of the Wall, seeking a ruling on their situation. The committee headed by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman agreed to take on the issue at the government's request, after a series of interministerial directors-general committees failed to find an acceptable compromise.

Chaim Beckerman, one of the Women of the Wall, said the group had made a "minimal but basic request to pray with Klal Yisrael [the Jewish community] at the Wall according to our custom. We suggested a few compromises that would make that possible. But a compromise that isn't physically at the Wall is not a compromise, but rather a surrender."

Betsy Cohen Kallus, also of the group, said: "It's no surprise to us. We knew Neeman was going to say that. He was pressuring us through-out the committee meetings to accept Robinson's Arch, and we made it clear to him that it was not acceptable. First of all, because it's too far from the Western Wall and the area where we as Jewish women want to be able to pray, and second of all, it is not an area which is prepared for prayer, but rather a pit in the ground. It's a completely inaccessible location physically, there's no way to physically get in there."

"We offered an alternative, which from our perspective is one we were willing to accept as a major compromise, and he was not willing to even negotiate that with us. We feel that that was just tremendously disappointing and frustrating on our part, and we're prepared to go back to court and we hope we'll be able to argue successfully."

The committee said it examined the advantages and disadvantages of each of five different sites, "and

to what extent they could provide a fair and fitting answer which would prevent as much as possible a clash between allowing freedom of access of the petitioners to the Wall, to fulfill their desire to pray there in their own custom, and preventing harming the sensibilities of the worshippers at the Western Wall plaza and preventing any violation of the custom of the place."

The sites rejected by the committee included the women's section of the Western Wall, the southeast corner of the Wall, the parking lot at the Western Wall complex, and the "flag plaza" there.

The committee said Robinson's Arch "will allow the worshippers direct access and contact with the Wall." They added that archeologists on the committee believe the site "visually captures the experience of the destruction of the Temple."

The committee also said it is "the most practical solution for the needs and demands of the Women of the Wall." The recommendation, signed by Justice Ministry Director-General Nili Arad, ended with quotes from Zachariah and a midrash calling for Jews to love and respect each other.

However, Raday said, "The decision that they cannot pray at the women's section at the Western Wall is contrary to the previous recommendation of the High Court, which said that they should be allowed to implement their right to pray there, minimizing the injury to the sensibilities of the other worshippers. They used the word 'minimizing.' What this committee has done is use the word 'preventing' injury to the sensibilities of other worshippers."

Raday said that the Women of the Wall had reduced their request to 11 hours of prayer a year - one hour every Rosh Hodesh, and not including Rosh Hashana.

"To come and say that the police cannot guarantee Orthodox Jewish women the right to pray in a way

which is not contrary to the Halacha 11 hours a year is in our view a sad commentary on the state of Israeli democracy. It's an admission of the impotence of Israeli democracy," Raday said.

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of the Masorti Movement in Israel and a committee member, explained that he had only gone along with the recommendation after hearing from Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki that police would not be able to prevent violence if the women were permitted to pray in the women's section at the Wall, or at the flag plaza.

"I don't rule out Robinson's Arch. I think it's a reasonable proposal," Bandel said, "but it would have been preferable had the other two proposals been accepted: either allowing the women to pray at the Western Wall for 11 hours a year, or having them pray at the parking lot within the Western Wall plaza."

Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform Movement's Religious Action Center, the only committee member not to support the Robinson's Arch proposal, said: "The fact that it supported the compromise proposed by the women does not mean that I did not support the Robinson's Arch option; I certainly saw the virtue in it."

"But I said that, in light of the fact that the Women of the Wall were limiting their request to one hour a month, and even the fact that over the years the venom has significantly decreased from the time the Women of the Wall started their services, and given the fact that the Supreme Court's guidance was explicitly indicating a need to reconcile these two conflicting elements of access to the Wall with minimizing the harm to the feelings of the regular worshippers, I felt that the compromise they offered... was one that was reasonable, and that they deserved my support and that I should not turn my back on their just and compelling plea."

SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny said yesterday that, "as long as there is no progress in the peace process with the Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese - who can you expect to participate?" He said Egypt believes there is a "difference between peace and the fruits of peace. How can we achieve economic cooperation in the Middle East when there is no peace process?"

At the same time, Bassiouny said that if there were progress, Egypt would immediately encourage the convening of a regional economic conference.

Last year, Egypt did not have official representation at the conference. "Our position is the same as last year, since there is no progress in the peace process," he said.

However, Blatt said it is highly unlikely that a single development, such as another pullback from the West Bank, would result in the convening of the conference.

Blatt also noted this year's cancellation is "ironic" in that the participants in the Doha conference had deemed it a success, and it actually had a larger number of participants and resulted in more business deals.

The Jerusalem official noted that the MENA format is a public-private partnership and in the Arab world, the political and economic processes cannot be separated.

However, he said, "this is not the end of the MENA process," noting that there is a chance the conference could convene again in 1999 if the peace process gets back on track.

David Zev Harris adds: One of the key organizers of the first three MENA summits on behalf of the PA, Mohammed Shatah, director-general of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, last night said he understands that Palestinian businesspeople could lose out on a chance to meet potential investors at the summit, but the bilateral peace talks are the key to the PA's future.

"This kind of event is a part of the multilateral peace track, which is there to support the bilateral effort," said Shatah. "The multilateral cannot be allowed to move faster than the bilateral."

The PA maintains that, while Israel has clearly gained from the peace process, the Palestinian economy is in deep recession, with its gross domestic product down 24 percent over the last four years.

"We can't fool ourselves and the world by telling them Palestine is ready for investment, while Israel controls our border and whenever they want to close it they close it," said Shatah.

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

The gift which screw-the-establishment singer Aviv Gefen and model Ilana Berkowitz gave each other for Rosh Hashana was freedom. The couple, whose four-year romance culminated in a hoopa wedding for 1,500 guests on the Tel Aviv beachfront two years ago, divorced last week in the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court. Though they maintained a public image of harmony, friends knew the marriage was rife with discord. In recent months there were increasing rumors of a rift - strongly denied by both sides, even though each was seen out with other people. There were at least two attempts at reconciliation, but it seems the magic had gone. Now each is free to find it elsewhere.



Gefen: the magic went

(Yael Ilan)

appointments; there's a difference, he said, between business and public office, and Mar-Haim is a first-class businessman whose services to the companies with which he is involved are invaluable. But where public office is concerned, said the associate, Mar-Haim would do better to take a back seat.

FINANCE Minister Yaakov Neeman was conspicuously absent from the list of the country's 100 most influential people compiled by the *Yedioth Aharonot* weekly *Yerushalayim*. The list did include Jacob Frenkel, governor of the Bank of Israel, who ranked fifth. No. 1 on the list was Shaleh Aryeh Deri. Second was Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, and third place went to banking, real-estate, high-tech and cruise-line mogul Ted Arison.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu limped in fourth, President Ezer Weizman sixth and Sara Netanyahu eighth.

Even though he is no longer in office, Avigdor Lieberman, former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, came in 12th, two places ahead of Histadrut leader Amir Peretz, and six places ahead of Ahmed Tibi, special adviser to PA leader Yasser Arafat. Just scraping in, in the 100th slot, was former prime minister Shimon Peres.

"TIS the season for books by broadcasters. Hot on the heels of Dan Shilon's controversial behind-the-scenes revelations of *Broadcast Live* is an upcoming autobiography by ratings king Dudu Topaz. While Topaz may not slaughter as many sacred cows as Shilon, some of his revelations will be fodder for gossip columnists.

ISRAEL'S fourth president, Ephraim Katzir, has joined a battle by the Council for the Preservation of Buildings and Historic Sites and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel - to save Jaffa's character. Concerned that Old Jaffa will be sacrificed in all the new construction that will completely change its face, the two organizations have recruited several public figures to join the fray. Among them are Habimah manager Ya'acov Agmon, former politician Lova Eliav, artists Yosi Bergner and Menashe Kadishman, entertainer and Jerusalem city councilman Yehoram Gaon, and Aura Herzog, head of the Council for a Beautiful Israel. Actresses include Hannah Marron, Orna Porat and Gila Almagor. Then there's former Weizman Institute president Prof. Michael Sela, Rivka Sackner, manager of Sothoby's Israel, singer Yehudit Ravitz, composer Naomi Shemer and an extraordinary number of other Israel Prize laureates.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

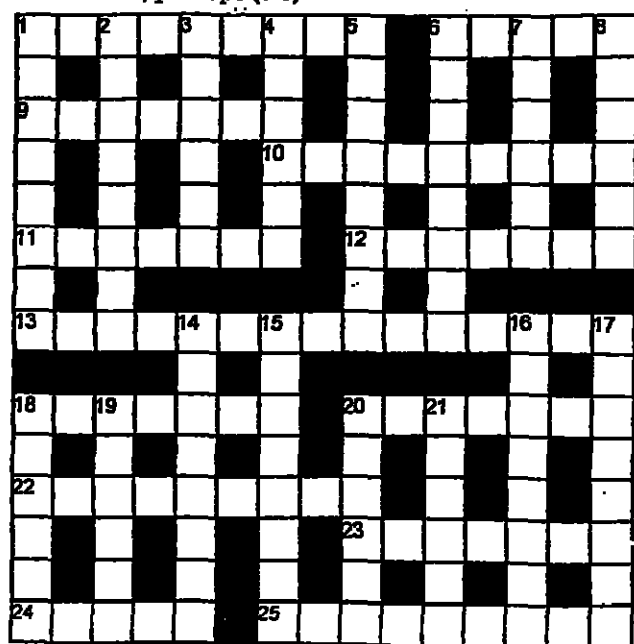
ACROSS

- 1 Feature of piano not to emphasise (4-5)
- 6 Crack troops capture second Greek island (6)
- 9 Note about US farm's share of investment (7)
- 10 Is short of grape-juice? That's inevitable (5,4)
- 11 Sloth not reacting to return of another sloth (7)
- 12 Men stay free, given this pardon (7)
- 13 National contest for which all seats are available (7,8)
- 18 The end of a flight, in two ways (7)
- 20 Sort of computer for board use, perhaps (4-3)

- 22 Confession finds acceptance as evidence (9)
- 23 Pudding may ruin slowly (7)
- 24 Thinner vest gives coolness (5)
- 25 New Age's young congregation (9)

DOWN

- 1 Determining there's money in the background (8)
- 2 Real fun I arranged for German girl (8)
- 3 Ship - what a lot it cost? (6)
- 4 Chaparone expected girl to get up (6)
- 5 Part of body has trouble - don't touch it when training (4,4)



SOLUTIONS

- 6 Such a speed is lower than we hear (8)
- 7 Aristocrat runs away to French Resistance (6)
- 8 Son spiteful and empty-headed (6)
- 14 Have extra cover, to make control certain (8)
- 15 Wraps I'd wear, for two pins (8)
- 16 Ecstasy found in mixed bathing, that's certain (2,3,3)
- 17 See panel processing Asiatic (8)
- 18 Permission to take new yeast (6)
- 19 Count as local (6)
- 20 Can demand money at first from Scots king (6)
- 21 Got out of jail - odds on escape good initially (6)

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Makara, 6 Peach, 8 Dress, 9 Harbour, 10 Sicily, 11 Mire, 12 Era, 14 Spot, 15 Pass, 18 Bat, 21 Alan, 22 Opinion, 23 Storage, 24 Under, 25 Reply, 26 Nerd.

DOWN: 1 Modish, 2 Kneecap, 3 Resolute, 4 Part, 5 Abode, 6 Bonnet, 7 Shave, 13 Aptitude, 16 Swindle, 17 Caesar, 19 Tower, 20 Sward, 22 Strip, 24 Only.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Inferior (4)
- 5 Stream out (4)
- 7 US state (7)
- 8 Strong reaction (8)
- 10 Scottish church (4)
- 12 Seaweed (4)
- 14 Overbearing (8)
- 16 Authorise (8)
- 17 Covered with mowing moisture (4)
- 18 Lowest part of ship (4)
- 19 Isolation (8)
- 22 Strait (7)
- 23 Vat (4)
- 24 Sort (4)

DOWN

- 1 Sly look (4)
- 2 Framework (4)
- 3 African desert (8)
- 4 Barrel (4)
- 5 Put into containers (8)
- 6 Baby's biscuit (4)
- 9 Repeat (7)
- 11 Revived (7)
- 13 Housebreaker's tool (8)
- 15 Embittering (8)
- 16 Reef (4)
- 19 Drench (4)
- 20 Speech (4)
- 21 Lengthened (4)

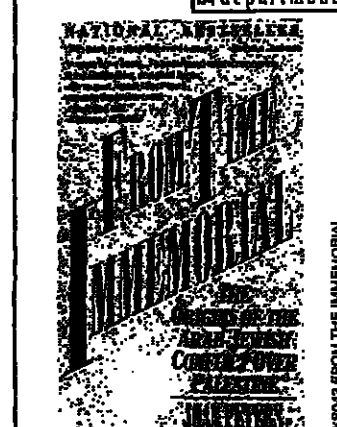
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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low
Ariel	28/15	31/20	32/20	32/20
Beer Sheva	30/16	32/20	32/20	32/20
Dead Sea	30/16	32/20	32/20	32/20
Eilat	34/24	36/26	36/26	36/26
Haifa	24/16	21/13	21/13	21/13
Jerusalem	24/16	21/13	21/13	21/13
Katzi	24/16	21/13	21/13	21/13
Netanya	24/16	21/13	21/13	21/13
Tel Aviv	24/16	21/13	21/13	21/13
Tiberias	24/16	21/13	21/13	21/13

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NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

City	Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low
Anchorage	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
Calgary	12/4	12/4	12/4	12/4
Chicago	21/11	21/11	21/11	21/11
Denver	21/11	21/11	21/11	21/11
Los Angeles	21/11	21/11	21/11	21/11
London	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
Madrid	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
Moscow	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
New York	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
Paris	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
Rome	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
Tel Aviv	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
Toronto	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
Vancouver	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5
Washington	14/5	14/5	14/5	14/5

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Cubs lose despite Sosa heroics

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Sammy Sosa kept the pressure on Mark McGwire, but the Chicago Cubs couldn't keep the pressure on the New York Mets.

Sosa homered twice to tie McGwire in the home run race at 65 and give the Cubs a 7-0 lead Wednesday. They couldn't hold it, though, and lost to the Milwaukee Brewers 8-7 when Brant Brown dropped a fly ball that would have been the game's final out, allowing three runs to score.

Chicago, which has three games remaining, remained tied with New York atop the NL wild-card race.

Sosa broke an 0-for-21 slump, hitting solo shots in the fifth and sixth innings. It was his 11th multihomer game this season, tying the major league record set by Detroit's Hank Greenberg in 1938.

Expos 3, Mets 0
In New York, Carl Pavano allowed three hits in six-plus innings as Montreal dropped New York back into a tie with the Chicago Cubs atop the NL wild-card standings.

The Mets close out the season with three games in Atlanta. Pavano (6-8) also had an RBI double for Montreal, which went 8-4 against New York this year. Ugueth Urbina got three outs for his 34th save and seventh against the Mets.

Giants 4, Pirates 1
In San Francisco, Joe Carter hit a go-ahead, three-run homer and Mark Gardner allowed five hits in eight innings as San Francisco won its third straight.

The Giants, who moved to within 1 1/2 games of the Mets and Cubs in the NL wild-card race, has four games left.

Gardner (13-5) won his fifth straight decision, matching his career high with 11 strikeouts and walking two. Robb Nen finished for his 39th save.

Astros 7, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Mark McGwire failed to homer against Houston's Randy Johnson to remain tied at 65 home runs with Sammy Sosa, as the Astros won their 100th game.

Johnson (10-1) scattered eight hits in seven innings to end the Cardinals' six-game winning streak. Houston's Craig Biggio became only the second player this century to have 50 steals and 50 doubles in a season, joining Hall of Famer Tris Speaker, who achieved the mark in 1912.

The Astros clinched home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Braves 11, Marlins 0

In Miami, John Smoltz allowed one hit in five innings and Andres Galarraga hit his 44th homer for Atlanta.

The Braves reduced to one their magic number for clinching the NL's best record, which would ensure a home-field advantage in the first two rounds of postseason play. Smoltz (17-3) retired the first 10 batters, including seven on strikeouts. Kirt Ojala (2-7) allowed six runs in four innings.

Phillies 4, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Mark Portugal had a pair of hits and pitched 7 2/3 innings to lead the Phillies.



CHALK UP ANOTHER ONE — Sammy Sosa watches the ball clear the wall for his 65th homer in Milwaukee on Wednesday. (Reuters)

Portugal (10-5) allowed four singles and four walks. The right-hander went 8-2 in 15 road starts with a 3.06 earned run average this season. Ricky Bottalico got the final two outs for his sixth save.

Rockies 14, Diamondbacks 11

In Denver, Todd Helton homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs to lead the Rockies.

Colorado's Larry Walker went 3-for-3 to improve his NL-best batting average to .360.

David Wainhouse (1-0) got the win. Dave Veres pitched two scoreless innings for his sixth save.

Arizona's Willie Banks (1-2) allowed the go-ahead run in the seventh.

Padres 3, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Andy Ashby pitched six innings for his first victory in six weeks and Tony Gwynn homered to drive in the go-ahead run.

Ashby (17-9) became the NL's first 16-game winner on Aug. 12, but had gone 0-3 with three no-decisions since then. He allowed seven hits and two runs while walking one and striking out six.

Trevor Hoffman pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings to earn his 52nd save in 53 opportunities. Gwynn hit his 15th homer in the fifth off Brian Bohannon (7-11).

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Red Sox 5, Devil Rays 4

In Boston, the Boston Red Sox defeated the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 5-4 as Nomar Garciaparra hit a three-run homer to atone for his error

that led to three earned runs.

Tom Gordon tied a major-league record with his 41st straight save conversion. He got out of an eighth-inning jam by striking out Paul Sorrento, then pitched a one-hit ninth for his AL-high 44th save of the season.

Boston can eliminate Toronto, which beat Baltimore 6-3 Wednesday night, by beating the Orioles in the opener of a regular season-ending, four-game series Thursday night.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 3

In Toronto, Kelvin Escobar out-pitched former teammate Juan Guzman, and Carlos Delgado and Shannon Stewart each hit two-run homers as Toronto beat Baltimore.

After Guzman (10-16) was traded to the Orioles on July 31, Escobar (7-3) replaced him. Escobar went eight innings, giving up three runs and 10 hits, striking out five and walking one.

Robert Person pitched the ninth for his sixth save.

Guzman, who spent 7 1/2 seasons with Toronto, made his first start against his former team. He gave up six runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings, struck out seven and walked three.

Yankees 8, Indians 4

In New York, Shane Spencer and Chad Curtis hit three-run homers as the New York Yankees matched the most wins in franchise history.

The Yankees, who equaled the 110 wins of the 1927 team, pulled within one game of the American League record of 111 victories by the 1954 Indians.

New York has four games remain-

ing to catch the Indians but will not be able to surpass the 116 victories by the Chicago Cubs in 1906.

Tigers 5, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Bryce Florie allowed three hits in seven innings and struck out nine to break his six-game road losing streak.

Rangers 7, Angels 1

In Anaheim, California, the Texas Rangers beat the Anaheim Angels to complete what likely will be remembered as the sweep that won the AL West.

John Burkett pitched two-hit ball over eight innings as the Rangers moved three games ahead of the Angels with four games left in baseball's last undecided divisional race.

Todd Zeile singled in a run in the

fourth, then hit a two-run homer off Troy Percival in a three-run eighth for the Rangers.

Rusty Greer drove in a pair of runs for Texas with sacrifice flies.

Athletics 8, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Eric Chavez singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and the Oakland Athletics avoided clinching last place in the AL West.

After Heathcliff Slocumb (2-5) walked Scott Spiezo with one out in the eighth, pinch-runner Rickey Henderson stole his major-league leading 64th base. With two outs and Henderson on third, Chavez singled up the middle.

T.J. Mathews (6-4) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win, and Billy Taylor got the last four outs for his 33rd save.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	88	56	.610	—
New York	88	71	.553	15
Philadelphia	74	84	.468	28 1/2
Montreal	64	94	.405	38 1/2
Florida	51	107	.323	50 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	88	59	.600	—
Chicago	88	71	.553	12
St. Louis	88	78	.526	19 1/2
Cincinnati	74	85	.465	24
Pittsburgh	73	85	.462	24 1/2
San Francisco	69	89	.437	30 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	97	62	.610	—
San Francisco	86	72	.544	10 1/2
Los Angeles	88	78	.526	14 1/2
Colorado	76	83	.478	21
Arizona	63	96	.396	34

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	110	48	.696	—
Boston	89	69	.563	21
Toronto	86	72	.544	24 1/2
Baltimore	78	80	.494	32
Tampa Bay	63	95	.399	47

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	88	70	.557	—
Chicago	77	81	.487	11
Kansas City	71	86	.452	16 1/2
Minnesota	67	91	.424	21
Detroit	64	95	.403	24 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	86	72	.544	—
Seattle	83	75	.523	3
Seattle	74	83	.471	10 1/2
Oakland	72	86	.454	14

Wednesday's NL games: Milwaukee 8, Chicago Cubs 7; San Francisco 4, Pittsburgh 1; Atlanta 11, Florida 0; Philadelphia 4, Cincinnati 2; Montreal 3, N.Y. Mets 0; Houston 7, St. Louis 1; Colorado 14, Arizona 11; San Diego 3, Los Angeles 2.

Wednesday's AL games: Toronto 6, Baltimore 3; Boston 5, Tampa Bay 4; N.Y. Yankees 8, Cleveland 4; Detroit 5, Kansas City 1; Minnesota 7, Chicago White Sox 6, 12 innings; Texas 7, Anaheim 1; Oakland 8, Seattle 3.

Faldo: Don't blame me for split with coach

COLOGNE (Reuters) — Britain's Nick Faldo refused to alter his stance yesterday as to why he had split from long-time coach David Leadbetter despite talking to his former mentor on Wednesday for the first time in five weeks.

The six-times major champion parted company with Leadbetter after 13 years together and on Wednesday blamed a "lack of communication" for the schism, expressing surprise that Leadbetter had not gone to last month's PGA Championship at Sahalee to work with him.

But Leadbetter maintained from his Florida base later in the day that he had informed Faldo's manager John Simpson he would not be in Seattle because

he needed to be with his mother after the death of his father.

Yesterday in Cologne, Faldo said he knew that Leadbetter had informed Simpson of his likely absence from Seattle, but refused to alter his stance on the matter.

"There are always two sides to a story and I'm not always the bad guy," Faldo had worked with Leadbetter since 1985, revamping his swing under the tutelage of the Florida-based coach and going on to win the British Open in 1987, 1990 and 1992 and the US Masters in 1989, 1990 and 1996.

His recent form has been poor and he has aligned himself with a new coach from his own golf academy, Chip Koehnle.

Hampden Park pitch goes on sale

GLASGOW (Reuters) — The pitch at Hampden Park, one of the most famous pieces of soccer real estate, is going on sale on Sunday for a giveaway price.

The Scottish Football Association is selling off the pitch which has carried the stadmarks of world soccer's top names, from Pele to Maradona.

Fans will be allowed to cut up a slice of history and take home a square meter of turf for just one pound in a rebuilding program at the stadium which was once the biggest in the world.

The new Hampden Park is slowly taking shape as a 60,000-seat arena but that will accommodate fewer than half the number of supporters who were once able to crowd into the stadium.

It held the world record attendance of 149,547 for a match between Scotland and England in 1937, until Rio de Janeiro's Maracana Stadium overtook it.

The following Saturday a British club record was set when 146,433 people watched the Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Aberdeen.

Hampden also gathered in the largest crowd in European club competition, with more than 134,000 watching Celtic defeat Leeds United there in the 1970

European Cup semifinals, a record which is unlikely to be broken.

The ground earned its place in football folklore as the venue of what is widely regarded as the greatest match ever — Real Madrid's stunning 7-3 win over Eintracht Frankfurt in the 1960 European Cup Final in which Ferenc Puskas scored four goals and Alfredo Di Stefano three.

It was the place where Franz Beckenbauer captained Bayern Munich to their third successive European Cup Final triumph — a 1-0 win over St. Etienne in 1976.

Hampden also witnessed the emergence on the world stage of a teenager named Diego Maradona, who in 1979 scored his first goal for Argentina there.

Hampden has acted as the home ground for Scotland's national team for more than 90 years and the side will return there next season after an exile of three years for the £40 million revamp, which includes a football museum and offices for the new Scottish Premier League.

Fans who turn up on Sunday afternoon will get a certificate to go with their piece of turf and all money raised will go to charity.

SPORTS

in brief

Flo-Jo funeral plans announced

SANTA ANA, Ca. (AP) — Florence Griffith Joyner's fans will have the opportunity to grieve and say goodbye to the world's fastest woman sprinter in a public viewing to be held in nearby Los Angeles today.

A public viewing is scheduled for today from at a funeral home in Los Angeles, USA Track and Field, the sport's national governing body, announced Wednesday.

A public funeral is planned for tomorrow morning in the Lake Tahoe town of Lake Forest.

Caesarea golf

One hundred and fifty golfers descended on the Caesarea Country Club for the annual Visa international scramble tournament last weekend.

Taking first place with a ten-under-par 63 strokes were Sammy Hallyo and Barry Zimmerman. Two teams tied for second place on seven under par 66's but golf's count back formula gave the second place to Uri Aylon and Cyril Kaufman. Nissim Zinat and Zev Neria had to settle for third place.

The first three teams received trophies and the winners also won a golfing holiday at the Egyptian Sharm-e-Sheikh golf resort.

Heather Chait

Ex-Arsenal scout fined over 1992 transfer

LONDON (Reuters) — Former Arsenal chief scout Steve Burdshaw was fined £7,500 by the English FA yesterday after he admitted accepting money in a 1992 transfer deal.

The FA said earlier this month that Burdshaw, now with first division Queen's Park Rangers, admitted receiving £35,000 from agent Rune Hauge in connection with the transfer of John Jensen from Danish club Brondby to Arsenal.

"The payment was in contravention of FA rules and was a clear conflict of interest with his club," the FA said in a statement yesterday.

Juventus watched by just 583 fans

TURIN (Reuters) — Juventus set a new club record on Wednesday — for the smallest attendance at their Delle Alpi stadium.

Just 583 paying spectators turned up to watch the league champions beat Serie B side Ravenna 4-0 in the second round of the Italian Cup. The vast stadium on the outskirts of Turin has a capacity of 69,041.

Romanian coach goes wild at wedding

BUCHAREST (Reuters) — The coach of Romanian first division side Universitatea Craiova, banned for a year for attacking a referee, punched and kicked journalists filming his daughter's wedding yesterday, a news agency reported.

The independent Mediafax media agency said Ilie Balaci had barred reporters trying to make their way into Craiova town hall to cover his daughter Lorena's wedding to Universitatea player Eugen Trica.

Mediafax said Balaci shouted abuse at one cameraman and kicked another in the back. It quoted eyewitnesses as saying that Balaci had screamed at journalists that no one without an invitation would be admitted to what was a private event.

The Romanian Professional Soccer League this month banned Balaci for a year and fined him for striking a referee in the face with a soccer stud after Craiova lost a match in the southern Romanian city.

Tottenham confirm move for Leeds manager

LONDON (AP) — Tottenham acting manager David Pleat confirmed yesterday that his club is negotiating with Leeds to bring manager George Graham to Spurs.

After days of media speculation, Pleat gave the clearest indication that Tottenham was trying to lure Graham away from Leeds to replace fired manager Christian Gross.

Pleat said Spurs chairman Alan Sugar was speaking with Leeds counterpart Peter Risdale.

"Mr. Sugar has made an approach to Leeds for Mr. Graham," Pleat said. "The chairman is in dialogue with the Leeds chairman. We have made an approach. ... We'll just have to wait and see if it develops into a positive. Having made the

approach, we hope it will come to fruition."

Graham, the former manager of Arsenal, is believed to be eager to return to London. The Scotsman guided Arsenal to two League Championships, the European Cup Winners' Cup, two League Cups and the FA Cup. He was fired by Arsenal and handed a one-year ban for accepting illegal transfer payments.

There is widespread speculation that Graham will be installed as Tottenham manager by the middle of next week.

Graham said yesterday he will still be manager of Leeds tomorrow when the club, ironically, faces Tottenham. But he gave no commitment beyond then.

FA Cup final replay scrapped

LONDON (Reuters) — This season's FA Cup Final will have no provision for a replay for the first time in the competition's 127-year history.

An English Football Association spokesman said the decision had been taken in the interests of fans and to avoid fixture congestion.

"There is a feeling that the fans who travel to Wembley want a conclusion, for better or worse, on the day," said Steve Double.

"Secondly there is an increased risk of fixture congestion at that time of year." This season's FA Cup final is scheduled for Saturday, May 22, with the European Cup final being

played on the following Wednesday.

In the past 17 years, there have been five replays, all held on Thursday in the week after the original match.

Double said the fear was that English clubs Arsenal and Manchester United, who are taking part in the European Cup, could be involved in both competitions.

It means that from this season onwards the oldest knockout competition in the world will be decided after extra time and then penalties should it finish level after 90 minutes.

Of the 117 previous FA Cup finals 14 have gone to replays.

Davis Cup may have to undergo changes as Sampras says no

By ROBERT WOODWARD

LONDON (Reuters) — Pete Sampras's decision to miss the Davis Cup semifinal against Italy this weekend could be a catalyst for the Davis Cup.

Only Wimbledon outranks the Cup in popularity among tennis fans worldwide and the game is preparing to celebrate the centenary of the

men's team tournament next year.

While the Cup's place in tennis history is secure, officials are aware the competition may have to adapt, and quickly, to retain its place in the affections of the game's driving forces.

"We are looking at a number of attributes of the Cup and considering changes and discussing changes with various audiences — the players, television and sponsors," said a spokesman for the International Tennis Federation.

"We have a very strong brand in the Davis Cup but we cannot afford to be complacent. Times are changing... we want it to be viable in five to 10 years' time." The ITF has instituted regular discussions with Cup captains — the first was at Wimbledon this year — to discuss possible changes to the format and timing of the Cup, which has four rounds every year in the top (World) group including the final.

Traditionalists believe altering the format of the Cup would destroy its unique appeal to spectators and play-

ers. But television companies complain having a five-set competition spread over three days is unwieldy and difficult to schedule.

In a small step to adapt to television's demands, qualifying events in next year's Davis Cup will introduce a "no advantage" scoring system for the first time.

When the game reaches deuce, the winner of the next point takes the game.

More radical changes are in the wind.

Some critics, including Sampras, think the Cup should follow the route of golf's Ryder Cup and be played every two years.

Others believe first round matches, or the two opening singles on a Friday, should be reduced to three sets to streamline television coverage.

But half of the Cup's allure is that players have to show as much mental and physical endurance as skill to win, especially when playing in front of an away crowd. Rankings can mean little when team spirit and

tribalism take over.

Former Australian captain and player Neale Fraser is one of those traditionalists who now believe the time may be ripe for a change to adapt to pay-for-view and digital television.

"I am gradually coming round to the idea that we should play best-of-three set matches on Friday, with best-of-five set matches in the doubles and in any live rubber on Sunday.

"Except for the final, that is. I think that the Davis Cup final must have best-of-five set matches in all live rubbers," Fraser said.

Demands for change are also the product of increasing disenchantment among top players from the US Sampras, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang have decided not to play in the Milwaukee semifinal against Italy, weakening the team's chances of winning the Cup for a record 32nd time.

Agassi is angry that Milwaukee was chosen as the venue and has a prior charity commitment. Chang is

not a Davis Cup regular and suffered a terrible weekend when the United States were whipped 5-0 by Sweden in last year's final.

Sampras's pride is still raw after he was forced to pull out of that final with a leg injury.

He blamed the injury on playing one tournament too many at the end of a long year, an age-old complaint among top players who say setting aside four weeks a year for Davis Cup tennis is too big a commitment if ranking points are not at stake.

Sampras said he was also disappointed with the lack of enthusiasm for Davis Cup tennis in his home country, harking back to the 1995 final win over Russia in Moscow.

"It was one of the best efforts and I felt it went unnoticed in this country. If people in this country aren't crazy about Davis Cup and don't understand it, it is hard to really get behind it," he said earlier this month.

Milwaukee was chosen as the venue for the semifinal to try and

spread the Davis Cup gospel away from the tennis hotbeds.

As in many sports, a strong, committed American team is vital if the Davis Cup is to maintain its standing and continue to attract sponsorship and television revenue.

In a men's game not overlaid with charisma and headlines, the top players must turn out regularly to ensure the 16-nation World Group showcases the best tennis can produce.

Boris Becker, Yannick Noah and Arthur Ashe turned out for their countries in the Davis Cup before being asked to guide the teams when their greatest days were over.

John McEnroe says "some of the greatest moments in my sporting life have come in the Davis Cup" and he has little time for the reluctance of Sampras, who has bypassed the early Cup rounds in recent years, to fly the flag.

"The Davis Cup should be right up there among the priorities, it's equal to the Grand Slams in my opinion," McEnroe said last week.

"Winning a Grand Slam is a fantastic achievement, but being part of a team, representing your country, doing something above what you want for yourself — it might sound corny, but to me there's no better thing."

In Australia, Chile, Sweden and most other countries there is no commitment problem among players whom fans expect to play Davis Cup for their country.

The ITF, while recognising they have to listen to the gripes of players like Sampras, are not willing to institute format changes because American players have different priorities to the rest of the

